



ANECDOTES



LIFE ON THE OCEAN

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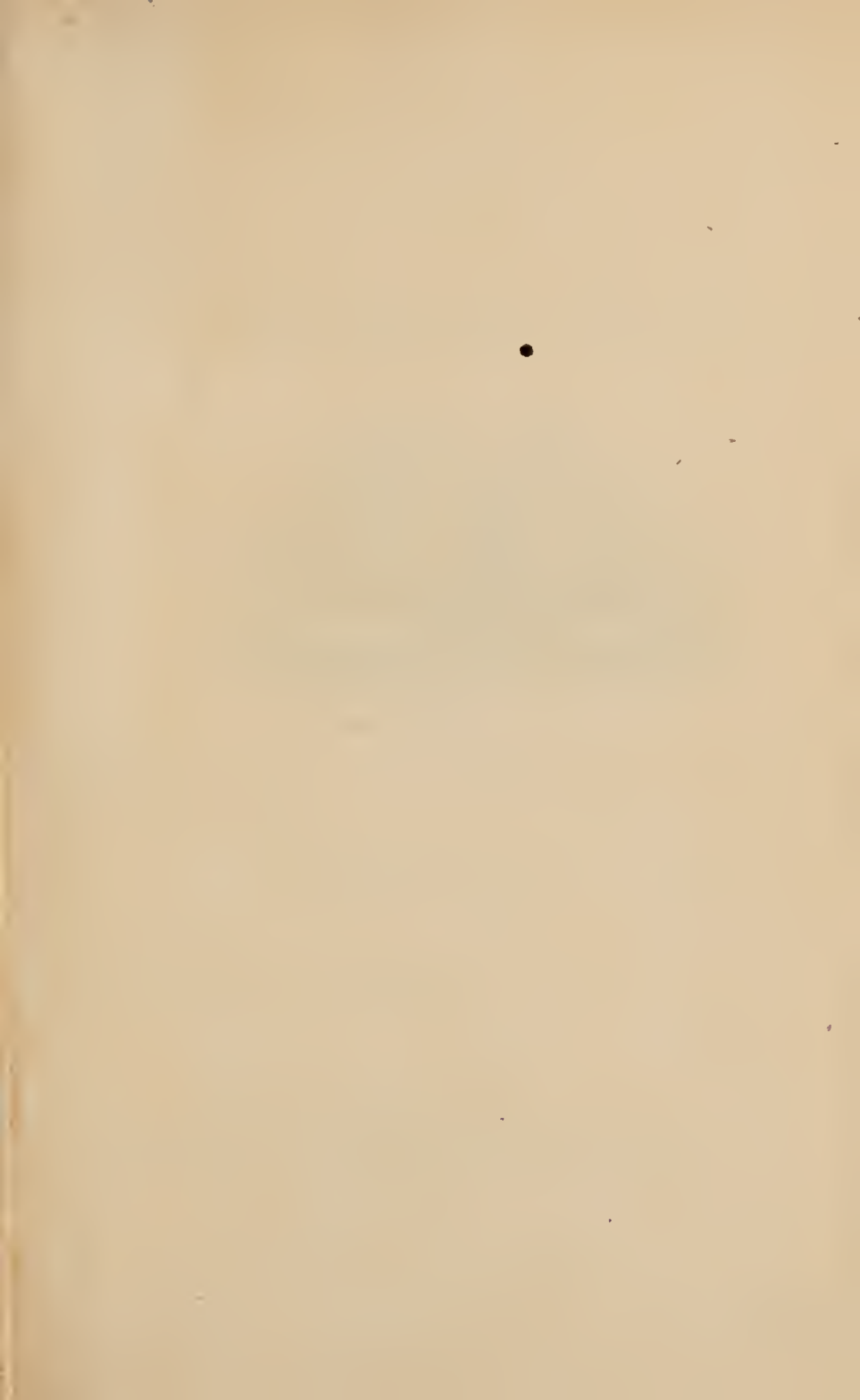
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Upper Ship "Ferry Cross"
of Capetown
J. Lewis
Commander

ANECDOTES
OF
A LIFE ON THE OCEAN,
BEING
A PORTION OF
THE EXPERIENCES OF TWENTY-SEVEN
YEARS' SERVICE
IN
MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

BY DAVID COWANS.



Montreal:
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PREFACE.

As it is usual in works of this nature to begin with a preface, I have merely to say that as I am not aware that any such work has hitherto been published in Canada, I was induced by some of my friends to write the following Anecdotes, embracing some of the most striking incidents of my long and varied experience at sea, in order to give the Landsman some idea of its stirring and ever-varying scenes. During the long winter when navigation is closed on the

Lakes, I thought that I could not be better nor more profitably employed than in endeavouring to add, in this way, to the information of the public of the Dominion, and I trust that the literary imperfections of the work will be mercifully criticised.

From the seaman or navigator who is well acquainted with many of the scenes described in the following pages, I would also ask the same favour, as I never embarked in the literary line before. With these few remarks I place this volume before a generous and discriminating public.

THE AUTHOR.

Montreal,

1st March, 1871.

MY FIRST VOYAGE TO SEA.

THERE are few professions more arduous than that of a sailor and navigator ; but although we hear every day of shipwreck and suffering, on the wide ocean in all parts of the world, yet there are always young men and boys, who in spite of all they hear or know of life on the ocean, will court and brave its many dangers. My own experience of almost every one of its hardships during a somewhat long service at sea, and in nearly all parts of the world, should almost be enough to deter any young man or boy from engaging in a calling so full of danger, suffering and privation. In a shipwreck on the coast of Ireland, I saw some of its dangers on a dark stormy night in the dead of winter, when our stout new ship was nearly dashed to pieces on the dangerous banks of sand lying off the coast—In a voyage from the East to the West Indies with cholera raging on board, when among upwards of four hundred emigrants there were three, four and five

deaths daily during the first part of the voyage—In the West Indies and Brazils where yellow fever was raging and sweeping away many of the crew, from the captain to the smallest boy on board ; and, lastly, during a long passage home from Peru, when our crew was reduced for some weeks to a very small allowance of bread and the same of hard salt beef, starvation being depicted in each cadaverous countenance as we received with joy and welcome our long-expected pilot.

Born in an inland village in Scotland, far from the ocean, I chose a sea-faring life more from reading stirring adventures of its ever varying scenes in Cook's Voyages, Robinson Crusoe, and works of a like nature, than from knowing anything of ships—my ideas of ships were very limited indeed—and how they were worked or how they found their way over the wide expanse of ocean to all parts of the globe. Leaving school it was the intention of my relations that I should choose a quiet life on shore, in shop-keeping or something of a like nature, but my whole heart was bent on a sea-faring life.

At length after persuasion was used in vain, I was bound as an apprentice at the age of fifteen to serve four years in a ship in the North American trade. The employer to whom I was bound had a large number of

vessels, from the small brig of 200 tons to the ship of 1,000 and 1600 tons. Bidding adieu to my kind mother and sisters I was soon on my way to the nearest sea-port to join my ship, having a letter to the captain. I soon found him at his lodgings on shore, but was not at all prepossessed by his abrupt, stern way of speaking to me. I was quickly fitted out for the voyage and at once began my duties as an apprentice. Our barque was quite a handy vessel of 460 tons, and there were two other boys, both of whom were much older than I, and had been several voyages at sea.

I was soon made acquainted with all the details of a younger apprentice's duties in sweeping decks, scrubbing, &c. Our barque after taking in ballast and making ready for her spring voyage to Quebec moved out to anchor in the stream to wait for a fair wind. Our crew now, all on board, were busily employed, securing spars, long boat, &c., and getting all secure for sea. The mate bore an excellent name as a sailor, and was well known to most of the crew, although a stranger to the ship. It was here that I first became aware of the nature of the martinet captain with whom I was about to take my first voyage. The mate, busy looking after the various duties of the men, did not perceive that the boat with the captain was alongside ;

he was soon over the gangway and on deck, furious with passion because Mr. D. did not receive him at the gangway; our mate very quietly answered that he was so busy he did not know that the boat was alongside, but Captain T. insisting on his making an apology before the crew he at once answered in the negative, whereon our tyrant captain said he must go on shore.

Mr D. soon had his clothes in the boat and was on his way on shore, very much regretted by all on board for the manly way in which he did the duties of the ship as well as on account of the mean treatment he received at the hands of Captain T. This looked somewhat ominous to me on my first voyage, the more so as I heard at the same time that our captain had a habit of giving his boys most unmerciful floggings for the most trifling offences. Mr D. was replaced by the second mate, while one of the older members of the crew took the second mate's place. We shortly after weighed anchor and made sail with a fair wind, but had not proceeded far on our way when the wind came dead against us. Tacking ship under the charge of the pilot, we had a hard time of it to get fairly out to sea.

At length we reached the open ocean and now my troubles began: gale after gale met us from the westward; fortunately sea-sickness gave me little trouble.

Placed in the mate's watch I had no sooner turned into my hammock, very often cold and wet, than the long, dreary cry of "all hands reef topsails," was heard at the hole or scuttle of our dreary abode, the forecastle. Streaming with water was this wretched den, and lighted by a miserable oil lamp swinging to and fro as if to shew us more plainly our dreary comfortless quarters; the men cursing the captain's stupidity in not taking in sail in time. It was soon my turn to get a share of the abuse. "Come, get out of that, you young ——." Remonstrance was of no use, I had to get on deck with the rest.

The lowering of the topsails, the hauling out of reefackles and the shouting of the captain and mates as the sleet and rain came down with the blast, made me think after all I would have been much better at my mother's fireside than coming to be a sailor in such a scene of darkness and confusion. Trying to escape going aloft was of no use, the mate coming along would give me a cut with a rope's end and with an oath. "Come, get up there, you young ——, and help to reef that topsail." Shivering with cold and wet I slowly mounted the rigging and reached the yard in time to be cursed again for a young —— as the sailors were hurrying down to set the sail.

The weather still continued boisterous and stormy as we beat against gales of wind to the westward, and on approaching the Banks of Newfoundland the cold was most intense: dense fogs came on, and as they sometimes cleared away for a time we could see around us immense icebergs of all shapes and forms, from the gently sloping island to the abruptly formed precipitous mountain of ice, and when the sun broke out for a time they looked grandly magnificent, variegated with all the colours of the rainbow; but as the dense fog again came down on us we had to keep a sharp look-out for these enormous masses of ice as they drift slowly to the southward, for there are outlying reefs very often extending some distance from their main bodies, and barely below the level of the sea, which are exceedingly dangerous to ships steering to the westward in foggy weather.

There are other dangers besides icebergs to be avoided on these banks, as we proceed towards the Gulf of St Lawrence. Numbers of French fishing vessels are anchored in from twenty-five to forty fathoms of water, surrounded by their boats, and all employed in the taking of cod and halibut. These vessels can by no means move out of the way of ships under way; great caution and watchfulness must therefore

be used to avoid collisions with them. Constant disturbances are now the rule between our fiery, passionate captain and several of the crew, who seem determined to desert on reaching Quebec. I had as yet escaped from his ill-usage, but one of the older boys who offended him by driving one of the pigs out of his way while sweeping the decks was not so fortunate. Seizing a heavy piece of rope he threshed the poor boy till he could not lift his arm above his head. The cries of the boy were of no use, as the blows came down on him, and for any one to interfere would have made matters worse. With an oath he at last threw down the rope, saying "there, you young—, I'll teach you to ill-use any of my pigs." Such is only one of the many cruelties of this martinet captain on his apprentices. These days are fortunately gone by, and masters of ships now-a-days are severely punished for ill-using any of their crew. But Captain T. was only one of many who disgraced our merchant service twenty-seven years ago.

At length we sighted the Islands of St Paul's, and beating up the gulf with a whole fleet of other ships in a few days more received on board our pilot who took charge of the ship. Quite a smart, intelligent French Canadian was this pilot, speaking very good

English, and one who seemed quite at home either night or day in working the ship up the St Lawrence. We soon afterwards anchored off Quebec on a beautiful day in May, after a six weeks passage from our port of departure. Our ballast discharged, we were soon afterwards taken to a loading berth, but Captain T., suspecting the desertion of some of the crew, set a watch over the ship at night, at the same time he gave us boys strict notice to warn him at once if we saw preparations made by any of the crew for leaving the ship.

Shortly afterwards I was awoke one night by the quiet rustlings of bags, chests and hammocks as they were quietly dropped or lowered into a boat under the bows, and six of our best seamen got as quietly down after them and away from the ship. Taking no notice of the matter I went quietly to sleep again. It can be well understood how futile would be the efforts of two or three boys with the captain to stop six determined men after they had got the start from the ship. But morning came and the rage of Captain T. knew no bounds, as he ground his teeth and threatened me when we were once more at sea how I should be flogged, &c.—for it soon became known that I had seen them go away.

Tying a few clothes in a bundle, I determined on escaping from this capricious tyrant by deserting. At dinner time I quietly stepped on shore and made for the bush, where I slept for the night. But some Canadians finding me there in the morning took me to the house of a kind woman, to whom I told my story. I soon had the sympathy of the people in the neighbourhood, and every care was taken that I should not be caught by the police. "L'homme propose mais Dieu dispose." The well known French proverb was decidedly applicable in this case; for coming from the post-office one day I saw our tyrant of a captain coming in the opposite direction. I tried to escape his notice by not running, and turning a corner ran up a wide entry; but, alas, there was no outlet for me there.

He caught me fairly in his arms as I tried to pass into the street, and in spite of my struggles I had to accompany him to the police-office, where there were quite a number of run-away seaman about to be sent on board their ships. We were soon sent to our different vessels, and I found myself once more under the authority of our capricious master. This time, however, I threatened to complain to the owners on reaching home if any of us were ill-used on the homeward voyage, and it was well that I did so, for he well

knew that our employers would not continue to keep him in command of the ship if it were known by them how he used the boys. None of our seamen who deserted were caught, and we soon afterwards sailed with a fresh crew. A fine fair wind followed us down the River St Lawrence and through the gulf to the Banks of Newfoundland; onward we sped, splitting sail after sail by sheer recklessness in some of the gales we had. In seventeen days from Quebec we arrived at our desired port.

All my enthusiasm for the life of a sailor had now vanished, although shame to return home made me hazard another voyage. Our employment in port was made tolerable by having regular hours to work in the day time, and a good clean bed to sleep in on shore at night. Our sailors were all discharged, and this was the first time I ever witnessed the reckless way in which sailors part with their hard-earned money. No sooner did ours receive their wages and purchase a few clothes, than they seemed to try how soon they could spend the remainder. Some were drunk, night and day, until shipped, when their advance money would hardly clear them of debts incurred by their reckless extravagance.

Fortunately for sailors, there are now Savings

Banks close at hand, where they can deposit their money *at once* on being paid off, safe from crimps and thieves of all kinds who haunt poor Jack like a shadow until all his money is gone. Every care is now taken by the government that our sailors shall be protected, but such was not the case when I made my first voyage to sea.

A VOYAGE TO THE ISLAND OF ICHABOE.

HAVING, as already stated, returned from my first voyage to Quebec and discharged our cargo, our ship was ordered to proceed to Ichaboe on the coast of Africa, after a cargo of guano. It was only my second voyage, but I had now become used to the ship and was able to take my share of the various duties required of apprentices, in loosing royals and top-gallant-sails, and assisting in many other of the lighter duties of the ship. Our captain had been there before, and whatever his faults were, he was decidedly a good navigator. Some of our previous crew were also about to accompany us on this voyage, but we were also to have in addition to the ordinary crew, twelve labourers to dig the guano on shore, fill up bags, &c., and assist in loading the ship, so that our small handy barque was well manned, provisioned, and equipped for a twelve months' voyage.

This guano and its properties as a manure are so well known, as well as its chemical properties, that no description of it is necessary here. Crew on board, and all ready, we sailed in August, 1844, on our new voyage, expecting to be absent not less than ten months. With fair winds we are soon clear of the English Channel, and steering to the southward expect soon to be within the limits of the north-east trade winds. These winds extend to the 30th degree of north latitude in certain months of the year, and at other times only extend to the 23rd or 24th degree. They blow, for the most part, steadily from north-east to east, and are of course always fair winds for ships proceeding south on their voyages to the East and West Indies. They extend as far south as the Equator, and are made available for ships bound to either the north coast of Africa or Brazil. We were soon bowling before the trade winds with studding sails set on both sides.

Our good sails are now unbent and carefully stowed away for our homeward passage and expected bad weather. The second suit of canvas or half worn sails are bent in their place, as being good enough for the fine weather we now enjoy; and how pleasantly the time passes as in this beautiful mild climate we sail

steadily along on our course towards the equator! We have plenty of work to do during the day time. The carpenter either caulking decks or at some other necessary work; the sailmaker repairing sails, assisted by some of the crew, and the boatswain with his men divided over the ship repairing or replacing rigging where required, the whole under the direction of the mate or second mate.

Such are the duties in any well disciplined merchant ship on a southern voyage, leisure being the exclusive privilege of the captain alone, who is generally walking the deck in the day-time, watching the steering of the ship or occupied in reading, when not taking or working up observations of the sun for latitude or longitude. The day's duties being over, our best singers begin after supper, and the chorus of the whole crew to some well known sea-song is heard over the ship as she moves steadily and majestically over the waste of waters, every stitch of sail full to the breeze, and like a thing of life and light on this beautiful star-light night. Some of the men can play different instruments of music, and a dance is often started by some excellent dancers among the crew; others are occupied in various gymnastic performances, vie-

ing with each other in feats of strength or agility. So the time passes until eight bells are struck at eight o'clock, and the watch is set for the night.

The look-out, and man at the helm relieved, the watch below retire to their hammocks until called at midnight, while the watch on deck, save the officer of the watch, look-out and helmsman, arrange themselves for a comfortable sleep on deck, the weather is so delightfully mild and warm. Sometimes roused up to brace up or square yards, and at four bells to relieve the helm or look-out. So the time passes as we proceed towards the equator.

Our first duty in the morning is to scrub and clean the decks before eight o'clock. The monotony of the voyage is sometimes relieved by the capture of a shark, porpoise or dolphin, or watching showers of flying fish which often come on board to escape the merciless dolphin or banito. But as we come towards the line our steady trade winds begin to fail us, and finally to die away altogether; studding sails are taken in, and the ship cleared for working through the variables and calms so prevalent here. Frequent squalls of wind accompanied with heavy rain now come down on the ship, and the officer of the watch must use all his energy and watchfulness to prevent losing any of his

masts or sails ; still he must carry sail through these variables in order to get across the Equator.

Rain falls sometimes in torrents, and now is the time to save water for washing and drinking. Awnings are spread for this purpose, and we soon fill up our water casks with good, pure rain-water. But at length we get fairly out of the calms and variables, and reach the south-east trade winds. These winds invariably blow from the south-east all the year round, extending from a few degrees south of the equator to the 30th parallel of south latitude. They are much steadier than the north-east trades, seldom veering more than two or three points of the compass. We are now what is called close-hauled, being obliged to stand across the trades instead of making a fair wind of them, as we have to go considerably to the westward out of our track.

As we dash through the water stretching towards the coast of Brazil, the weather still keeps mild and warm, but getting further south every day, we soon begin to feel the nights colder, although the weather continues clear and fine. At length we reach the limits or southern edge of the trades, and have made enough of south latitude to fetch the Coast of Africa. We tack to the eastward and make for our desired

port in Africa. In about ten days more we are standing in towards the coast, and can easily discern the forest of masts far in on the coast, where the ships are lying at the desired island of Ichaboe. As we approach nearer and nearer we can make out the hulls of some three or four hundred ships of all sizes, from the small schooner of 100 tons to the large full rigged ship of 1000 and 1600 tons.

What a desolate, forbidding-looking spot for ships to come to ! rolling and plunging heavily at their anchors as we still came nearer to the island. At length we begin to take in sail and our anchors are both dropped in this somewhat dangerous place, after a very fair passage of six weeks. We next proceed to send down top-gallant yards and masts on deck, and then to double reef and furl our topsails ; our cables being kept so that we can slip from our anchors if it comes to blow heavy, and proceed to sea from the coast, under snug sail, as there is no shelter here for ships in a gale of wind.

The Island itself is about a mile and a half in circumference, being nothing but a rock covered with the guano to the height of from ninety to a hundred feet, in some parts, and sloping down towards the sea and adjacent rocks. On the surrounding rocks, at a short distance off, there are myriads of sea-birds to be seen,

which have been driven from the island, and their accumulations of dung, together with the carcasses of the seal and other animals, as well as myriads of dead birds, have formed this tremendous deposit of millions of tons of guano. But no one knows how many centuries it has taken to accumulate on this desolate spot. The penguin is the most prominent of the bird species here; they range themselves in hundreds of thousands on the adjacent rocks, like whole armies of soldiers, and on any one landing a general rush is made for the water. Scampering on their webbed feet they are soon at home and out of reach of danger, diving and swimming like a fish.

These penguins are covered with a sort of down or hair instead of feathers, and are about the size of a wild duck; standing upright on their webbed feet, their short fins or flippers project from their breasts on each side. Their bills are the same as those of the duck in shape and size, and they are constantly diving in all directions in search of fish round the island and rocks; we have even seen them a long distance at sea swimming and diving in search of their prey, for they cannot fly like other birds of the sea that we have seen. Their eggs are good eating, but the flesh of the penguin, no matter how well it is cooked, retains a strong

fishy taste, and is far from being palatable. The other aquatic birds are mostly sea-gulls, gannets, boobies and albatrosses, which congregate here in large numbers to breed.

The coast of Africa about five miles off looks barren in the extreme. Nothing but hills and ridges of grey sand are to be seen, with here and there black and very bleak looking rocks. The whole coast for hundreds of miles is completely iron bound, with a heavy surf constantly breaking on its whole extent, so that any unfortunate ship stranded or getting on shore by accident is soon broken up, and the crew can only escape with extreme difficulty. It is, therefore, a most dangerous coast for a ship to be lost on, no water being obtainable on its sandy deserts, even if the crew should reach the shore. Our boats are now got ready for loading the guano, as we discharge the stone ballast we have taken in for the outward voyage; stages are rigged from the island well out, clear of the surf which is constantly breaking on the rocks. These stages are well secured and guyed from the top of the spars with chains, anchors and stout ropes, while planking is laid along for the passage of the crews with their bags of guano to the boats; meanwhile the long-boat or pinnace is slacked into the stage,

stern on, by means of a surf line and her stern moorings made fast. The bags are now dropped in with the utmost haste and expedition, while the boat's crew stow them, and no sooner is the boat loaded, than casting off their stern moorings, the boat is hauled off to smoother water by the surf line.

The tremendous surf rising in three different rollers comes roaring in sometimes as the boats are moored ready for their cargoes, and it is appalling to look at the boats as they rise to the breakers, their bows pointing nearly perpendicularly upwards as the three breakers roll on in succession and dash with a sullen roar on the rock-bound beach; Cries are heard of "hold on, hold on; don't slack an inch of our good surf line; it will soon be over;" and it is well the good surf line holds on, or the boat with her small crew would be dashed to pieces among the stages, and few of the men saved; but we got used to this, and though accidents sometimes happened by the boats coming broadside on, yet they were of rare occurrence.

The small gig which we four boys have to manage is sometimes caught by these heavy rollers at the stages, but we have become so dexterous in her management that we never receive the slightest damage. Our duty is to land the captain at six in the morning, while the

long-boat and pinnace land the sailors and labourers, under the second mate, on the island. The chief mate, carpenter, cook and steward remain on board to receive and assist in the discharge of the boats as they come alongside. At eight we take on shore the breakfast for the men on the island, bringing back the captain and landing him again on the island after breakfast. At noon the dinner has to be landed, and it is no easy matter sometimes to land soup, meat, &c., in such a heavy surf, but we are soon well used to that, too, and rarely make mistakes. In the evening the whole of the various crews are brought off to the ships for the night, and it is quite a stirring scene as each boat receives its crew at the stages, well tired with their day's work on shore.

Still our jolly sailors are not a bit discontented, and on a quiet night the whole harbour resounds with songs and merriment as the boats proceed to their respective ships. Heavy gales of wind, especially at the full and change of the moon, are of frequent occurrence, calling forth all the energies of the captains and crews to prevent breaking adrift and coming into collision with other ships in the crowded harbour. Plunging and rolling in the heavy sea which is running, the strength of each ship's chains and anchors is well tried, and some-

times an unfortunate vessel breaks adrift and comes in collision with another, when she is severely damaged and cut up. During our long stay of five months at this island we received but little damage in these gales. But one ship, the "Margaret," had twelve of her men on shore with the first and second mates when one of those gales came on. There were only the captain, carpenter, cook, steward and one boy on board. The cook was an old soldier and it was the boy's first voyage to sea, so that as the ship broke from her anchors the captain had only the carpenter and steward to depend on. As she drifted through the crowded harbour, fortunately without any collision, they managed to get her before the wind and away clear of the shipping. It was now impossible to render her any assistance, but we soon had the satisfaction to see her with her reefed topsails standing out to sea and far away from the rock-bound coast. Her crew were distributed among the many other vessels, and clothes provided for them.

Meanwhile the "Margaret" had got fairly away and running down before the trade winds arrived safely at the Island of St Helena, where she procured another crew and went on to the West Indies. We were now employed assisting to load four other ships of the same

company, although not more than half loaded ourselves ; we had, therefore, the prospect of a long stay at the island. But as the crew had agreed to that before sailing there was no grumbling about it and every thing went on well.

Fights were of frequent occurrence on the island, and if two men were heard quarrelling, the cry was heard of "a ring, a ring!" down bags and barrows, and a ring being formed the whole of the motley crowd were soon assembled on the spot to see the fight, and there was no getting out of it, for fight they must. But they invariably got fair play, although it was rather a brutal sight to the well-disposed men on the island. At other times some of the roughs would propose to have a rest in carrying the bags of guano to the boats or digging in the guano pits. Then a cry was raised of "a block, a block!" then all the bags and barrows were at once dropped, and the road to the boats was soon most effectually blocked up till the King of the Island came along and gave the order to move on.

The king of Ichaboe was a stout little English mate who had gained the good graces of the sailors by some means, and no sooner did he come along, than three cheers were given, and at his order, "move on bags

and barrows" the path was soon cleared to the boats, and things went on again as before. Tents were at first pitched on the island, but some of the captains and mates who had made themselves obnoxious to the crews, were so cruelly ill-used by being pelted with stones and dead penguins from the tents that the commander of the man-of-war stationed there gave orders for their being removed and every man on the island to return to his ship at night. Landing his crew of marines and blue jackets well armed, the tents were soon removed and some kind of order restored.

We had now been over four months at the island, engaged in the usual routine of duties, when one morning on landing with the breakfast several men came running down towards the boats asking us to go on board one of the ships for a doctor. A terrible accident had occurred to seven men who were now being dug out from beneath a fall of guano. A very dangerous custom prevailed of excavating the guano in order to obtain a fall for filling the bags. This morning in excavating a large portion in one of the pits, a mass of some hundreds of tons had come down before the men had time to get clear, entombing seven of them, who could not have lived many seconds under it.

Every exertion was made by hundreds of men with their shovels to rescue them, but when they were taken out they were quite dead.

A very touching incident happened as the bodies were stretched on the ground preparatory to being buried ; a young sailor on looking at them recognized among the dead his brother, whom he had not seen for some years. His cries at the discovery were heart-rending, and among all the rough sailors and labourers congregated on the spot, there were very few dry eyes as he lamented over the body of his long lost brother. The services of the chaplain of the man-of-war were engaged, and a quiet spot being selected on the island for burial, the bodies were followed to their last resting place by the greater number of the various crews on shore, the beautiful service of the Church of England was read over them, rendered still more impressive on this desolate spot ; and as we turned away at the conclusion there were few of the rough men composing the funeral party who did not feel deeply moved at the sudden and tragic end of those seven men.

Having taken on board all the guano we could find, for during our five months' stay the numerous vessels had almost cleared the island, we now weighed our

anchors and took leave of this desolate spot, and none felt sorry as we made all sail and stood out to sea. We soon left the barren, forbidding coast of Africa far astern, and in ten days more were anchored at St. Helena to fill up water for our homeward voyage.

The crew were allowed twenty-four hours leave, which they fully enjoyed on shore. Water filled up and all ready, we were soon under way for home, and all sail being set, with studding sails on both sides our little barque makes good progress as we ran down the south-east trade winds for home. With good fair winds and good weather we arrived at Queenstown after a very good passage of six weeks, when orders were received to proceed to the Clyde, where we arrived in ten days more, somewhat tired and very glad indeed to arrive without any loss or casualty from a voyage to the Island of Ichaboe.

A SHIP ON FIRE.

THERE are few incidents in a sea-faring life more startling or alarming than that of a ship on fire, my readers can imagine, but it is very hard to describe the effect of such an alarm either on board the crowded emigrant ship, or the ordinary merchant-man, with none but her own crew on board. The following story of a ship on fire may interest the readers of these anecdotes:—

Very late in the fall of 1846 we sailed from Quebec with a cargo of flour for the Clyde. After riding out at anchor in the gulf a heavy gale of easterly wind, we got on down towards the island of Anticosti, when a hard gale came on from the southward, rendering it necessary to carry sail in order to escape driving on its dangerous, inhospitable beach. Close-reefing our top-sails and reefing our courses, our little barque fairly groaned under the weight even of this reduced sail in such a hard gale, and ever and

anon lurched to leeward until our decks were filled with water up to the hatchways. Strange enough, not a cloud was to be seen, and the sprays falling on dry portions of our decks were almost immediately converted into sheets of ice, so intense was the cold.

Nobly our little barque held her own, making a good course, and considering how hard it blew sometimes, also making but little lee-way ; the land looming plainly and not very far to leeward of us. On this particular morning the watch which had been on deck the last four hours, after breakfast went to their beds in what is called the cuddy. This is a part of the ship's poop cabin, and instead of living in the fore-castle which was full of flour, our men lived in the cuddy. Shortly afterwards one of them came to the door, and speaking to us on deck said there must be something on fire in the cabin, as they could not sleep for smoke.

We immediately called the attention of the steward to the matter ; but on his examining all round the cabin, he could not see or smell the smallest sign of smoke. The reason of this was on account of the extraordinary draughts caused by the wind, which drove the smoke from the coal stove entirely clear of the cabin. The steward, therefore, said that they

must be mistaken, and we were all of course so far satisfied, as it was far from being pleasant for us to think that our noble little barque was on a lee-shore and on fire at the same time in such a gale of wind.

Scarcely had the watch retired or turned into bed again than the whole place was filled with a dense volume of smoke, rendering it impossible for them to sleep. Again the steward's attention was called to the matter, but he again insisted that there was no sign of fire in the cabin. Further examination was made, and our second mate, opening the door of our spare sail cabin, was nearly suffocated by a burst of flame and smoke issuing from our sails stowed there. Nothing daunted, we coolly but quickly went to work dragging the burning sails into the water on deck, which speedily extinguished them at every lurch of the ship. Meanwhile the carpenter, under the captain's directions, quickly cut a hole over the burning sail-room in the deck, and a gang was detailed to pass buckets of water from our lee-scuppers in order to drench the fire from above. We soon had the satisfaction of knowing that our exertions were attended with success, as the fire had not got hold in time of the wood work of our cabin. Speculations were now rife among us all as to

what would have been our fate had the fire got the upper hand of us in such a gale of wind and on a lee-shore; and we inwardly thanked God that we discovered the fire in time.

The cause of the fire was the intense heat of the stove placed near the partition dividing the sail-room from the cabin, and which was lined with sheet-lead. The lead had melted and then the wood-work took fire, speedily setting fire to the sails. Our gallant little barque soon afterwards cleared the south end of Anticosti, and we felt ourselves safe for the time from a lee-shore. But our troubles were not yet ended, gale after gale of easterly wind succeeded as we tried to beat our way to the eastward, and we had also to keep almost constantly at the pumps in this terrible weather, when not steering, reefing or setting sail.

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick,” and we hoped and prayed for a westerly wind to carry us home, westerly winds being almost always the prevailing winds on the North Atlantic in the winter. But it was not so on this passage, and we were heartily tired and fagged out as we at length sighted our desired point on the Irish coast. Soon afterwards taking a steam tug we arrived all well in the Clyde. Lowering the boat down

to take the captain on shore we at once discovered the cause of our extra labour in having been kept almost constantly at the pumps.

As we pulled round the ship, taking a look at her outside, after such a stormy passage, we discovered a good sized hole which would easily admit a man's hand, a very little above the surface of the water line, and which at sea must be almost constantly submerged, enough to keep us steadily at the pumps, and we at once knew that the many rats which infested the ship had bored their way right through the ship's planking in search of water; not knowing, however, by their instinct that the water was salt, but tempted because of its constant rush in their proximity.

Discharging our cargo soon afterwards we took out whole bucketsful of their gnawings as fine as saw-dust, which the rats had accumulated in their persistent efforts to reach the water. We took care afterwards that an allowance of water was left for the rats which they could reach without boring through the ship. There are many very startling incidents in such a life as ours, but few more so than being bored through by rats or being on board a ship on fire.

CAPTURING A SHARK.

As we lay becalmed near St. Lorenzo on the coast of Peru, the monotony of the ship's duties was somewhat relieved by the cry of "a shark, a shark!" and looking carefully along the surface of the water we discovered the back fin of an enormous shark, lazily sailing round the ship (for you cannot call it swimming) as if watching our motions and looking out for any of the cook's slops thrown overboard. He is evidently hungry, and it would be sudden death to any one of our crew to fall overboard at present or to go in swimming on this fine day. The shark is, without a doubt, the mortal enemy of "Jack at sea," as is the *land shark* on shore who strips him of his hard-earned money.

"Bring along the shark hook," cries the mate or officer of the watch. This shark hook, it must be known to my readers, is no large hook for catching salmon or pike, but a perfect monster hook, with a piece of chain attached, about a foot long. A piece of

salt pork, about a pound in weight, is hastily fastened to the barb, and a good stout rope bent on for a fishing line. Splash goes the baited hook over the stern, and he is soon seen coming swiftly towards it. Most of the crew are now gathered near the stern watching his motions: even the man at the wheel leaves his post to assist in his capture on this calm day.

He now stops a little as he approaches the tempting bait, as if watching our motions on deck. It is, however, but for a moment; turning half round, till the white of his belly is seen, he makes a furious dash for the baited hook, and is fairly caught by the jaw. Now he dashes from side to side in his vain efforts to extricate himself from the hook, and his great strength is at once apparent, taxing the efforts of ten or twelve of our men to play with and restrain him as he continues his struggles. But he is very soon exhausted, and with a good steady pull all together, we run him up clear of the water, with his jaws close to the taffrail. And what a monster he is! not less than fifteen feet in length, and his capacious mouth studded with six or seven rows of teeth, big enough, too, to take off one's leg at a bite.

We let him hang there for a short time, and slipping a noose over his tail, with one strong pull we land him

fairly on our clean poop-deck ; but keep clear of his tail as he lashes the deck in his dying struggles, or with one stroke he will surely break some one's legs. Our carpenter, however, soon brings along his sharp axe, and at one chop, off goes the offending tail, and our clean decks are streaming with the blood of the expiring shark, as one of the crew draws a sharp knife across his throat to hasten his death. Still the trunk of the shark quivers as if with life.

Anxious to know what is in his stomach the crew gather round, knowing that this is the receptacle, some times, of all sorts of strange things. One of my ship-mates had hung a pair of pants over the bows, leaving them dipping in the water as the vessel rose and fell with the undulation of the quiet sea. We all had gone to our dinner, not thinking about the pants, but happening to look over the bows I discovered to my astonishment that they were cut away as clean as if with a knife, leaving a very small portion indeed fast to the rope. I at once made known the loss to Lawrence, and on cutting open the stomach, we found the pants, a little mangled, but not a great deal the worse. We had a good laugh at the voracity of our common enemy, at the same time it was as well that no legs were in the pants, or the owner would assuredly have come to grief.

We now proceed with the disposition of the remains of the shark; but he is such an old fellow, no one thinks of eating any of him, he is so rank. One needs his back bone to clean and make a walking stick for a friend on shore, another takes the jaws to clean for the captain, or perhaps some of the mates. These jaws, when cleaned, I can easily slip over my head and on to my shoulders with their seven rows of sharp teeth. The tail is usually nailed up in some conspicuous place forward as a trophy, and the remains are ignominiously cast overboard, perhaps to feed some brother shark coming the same way.

Sharks are to be found in almost every latitude and in all parts of the world; their voracity is well known, and in rescuing a man who has fallen overboard the shark has been known to dispute the possession of the body as his terrified shipmates hastily drag him into the boat, his body lacerated and torn by this dreadful enemy of the sailor, to die in agony, and be again consigned to the deep. The master of a vessel at a place called Bonny on the African coast was mounting his ship's side by the ladder, when slipping, he fell between the ship and the boat, the boat's crew tried to rescue him, and in dragging him into the boat he called out, "For God's sake, men, don't drag me

that way." Releasing their grasp a little he was at last taken on board the boat, when it was found that one of his legs was terribly lacerated by the bite of one of these monsters that it had to be at once amputated to save his life.

In Kingston, Jamaica, an old shark, called by the negroes "Man-of-War Tom," was regularly fed by ships of war on the station to prevent the desertion of the crew, and he did it most effectually, for very few of the sailors had daring enough to swim ashore from his ship while "Man-of-War Tom" continued round the bay. He would far sooner face a ten-gun battery. In taking porpoises or other sea-fish there is some excitement on board ship at sea, but never so much as in capturing a shark.

A MAN OVERBOARD.

THE incident I am now to relate occurred during a voyage from Liverpool to the Chinchas Islands.

As we proceeded to the southward the weather became much colder, and as we were now nearly off the River Plate, every preparation was made to contend with the heavy gales of wind which are to be met with on this coast. New sails are bent to the yards, extra lashings are passed round, spare spars, anchors, &c., and all is made secure about the decks. These gales are called *pamperoes*, and while they last they blow most furiously, while not a cloud is to be seen; the sky is as clear and the sun shines as brightly as if it were the finest weather; but as the storm rages, the sea rises and runs in mountainous waves, sometimes breaking on board the devoted ship, and sweeping all before it in its resistless fury.

We were now off the Rio Plata, or River Plate, when one night as we lay becalmed, the sails flapping lazily

against the masts, we were startled about eleven at night by the long drawn cry "all-hands-reef-topsails." The watch below, of whom I was one, were soon on deck, and as the captain said the barometer was unusually low, the top-gallant sails were furled, topsails lowered down, and reef tackles hauled out, for close reefing our topsails. Still not a breath of wind disturbed the stillness of the night, but an ominous calm prevailed.

Not a star was to be seen as we laid aloft to close-reef the main-top-sail. My companion outside of me on the yard, I knew by his voice, was one of our young ordinary seamen, for it was not possible in the darkness to tell who was next to you otherwise. As we tied the reef points, I noticed him getting up on the top of the yard, clinging to a boom used for setting a top-gallant-stun' sail. "Come down," I said to him; "you will be falling overboard, you young fool." He came down on the foot rope at my request, and soon afterwards I was just in the top-mast rigging coming down on deck, when I heard in the stillness of the night a sudden crash on deck, as if a coil of rope had been thrown from a height; at the same moment we were startled by the cry of "a man overboard. All hands now hastened to clear away the quarter

boat. In the darkness, all was confusion. A lantern had to be found to search for the oars, which were stowed away in the hold, and at last after a delay of a quarter of an hour, four of us, with the second mate, started in the boat to find the man who had fallen overboard, but whom we knew it was nearly impossible to find alive in the darkness, after first striking the ship in his fall.

Pulling in the direction pointed out by the captain, one of us had to keep baling out our leaky boat, while we steered round the ship in every direction ; pelicans and other large sea-birds swooping down close to our heads in the darkness, as if they intended to attack us. After pulling for nearly an hour we now made our way back to the ship, but without having seen the faintest trace of the poor fellow who had fallen overboard ; a light being hoisted for our guidance. Curses, both loud and unsparing, were directed at the carelessness of the captain and officers in not having a boat fit to float for the purpose of saving one of our number who might fall overboard. Still more so at their inexcusable culpability in having the very oars stowed away in the hold, when they should have been in their places in the boat. Our boat was soon hoisted up, when I was asked by one of the crew “ who

had fallen overboard?" I did not know, and asked in turn who it could be. They told me it was reported when the boat left the ship that I was the man overboard, no one knowing in the darkness who was in the boat. We found, when the hands were all mustered, that it was young S., the same whom I had warned on the yard to be careful. He was much liked by the crew for his pleasant, agreeable ways, and we all deeply felt his loss for a short time, but in the recurring duties of a ship at sea, the loss of a shipmate is very soon forgotten by most of the crew.

I have commanded a few ships at sea since that time, over twenty years since, but took care that my quarter-boat was ready to clear away, and always had life-buoys ready to rescue any of the crew who should fall overboard. I never forgot the culpable carelessness of the master and officers of that ship in not having either boat or oars ready to save *a man overboard*.

THE SHIP'S MONKEY.

MONKEYS are great favourites with sailors on a long sea voyage, and many a weary hour is made short, and the ever recurring duties of the ship lightened by the tricks and strange grotesque actions of these mirth-provoking creatures. Never at rest but when they are asleep, they are always moving about, either stealing from the ship's cook, or engaged in some other mischievous trick. If you have a favourite book or print lying about the cabin, and Jacko sets his eyes upon it, it is a wonder if he does not get it and set to work, tearing it to pieces as coolly and deliberately as if he were doing something very praiseworthy, and requiring a deal of fertility of thought in his mischief-loving brain.

Tying him up about the deck is of little use, as he will either find out how to loose himself, or some one

of the crew will let him go to see him work mischief. Our sailmaker seated at his bench in fine weather, must keep a sharp look-out for Jacko, for if any needles are left lying about, it is a wonder if he does not make off with them. The carpenter, too, comes in for a share of Jacko's patronage, and must not leave any small handy tools about, for if not too heavy he is sure to make off with them. Our steward making a pudding ready for the cook, must look out for his raisins, for if he turns his back for a few moments to attend to some other duties, this is Jacko's happiest opportunity. Stuffing himself with raisins in great haste, and chattering and grinning all the while, he next fills the pouch under his throat: the steward coming back makes a dash to catch him, but Jacko is always too quick to be caught so easily. With a bound he is off, and making for the rigging is up and quickly out of reach. Up, still up he goes, until he reaches the royal yard, the loftiest part in the ship, then sitting down on his haunches, he proceeds with great composure to devour the remainder of his booty, chattering and grinning all the while at the steward who is now looking up at him, shaking his fist, and threatening him with all sorts of punishment. But Jacko goes on with his task, occasionally looking down and grinning

as much as to say, Yes, Mr. Steward, when you can catch me! The crew, meanwhile, are now gathered on deck, and the ship resounds with laughter at the cool impudence of the monkey, and rage of the steward, who can only turn away and laugh himself.

But my readers will ask what he can do with sail needles and carpenters tools; he can't eat them surely? Very true, but he can turn them round and round, looking as wise as a monkey can look, as if examining their use, and then stow them away in some out-of-the-way place, for future study and sage reflection, or deliberately drop them overboard. Our sailmaker had lost a number of needles, and many other small things were missing, leading to the belief that it could not be always the monkey; but one day on uncovering a part of the rigging in the main top, which was seldom moved, in order to make some repairs, we came upon a whole hoard of Jacko's peculations, in the shape of sail needles, small knives, gimlets, old rusty nails, bits of different coloured cloth, pieces of canvas, and old leather, which Jacko had stowed away snugly and securely at various times. We had a hearty laugh over the matter, some one remarking that Jacko intended setting up a marine store on a small scale when he got ashore. Meanwhile Jacko

did not seem to like our discovery of his hoard, but sat looking at us, grinning and chattering in rather an angry mood.

I was carrying home a parrot to one of my relations ; and a constant war was waged between Jacko and the parrot. No sooner had we filled up the cup of food and water in the cage, than Jacko, watching his chance, would be at it, stealing as usual, when the parrot's screaming would call some one to drive him away, chattering and grinning as usual. In fine weather, when the work of the ship was done for the day, and Jacko had committed some unusual depredation, a general hunt was instituted by the younger sailors of the ship, to catch the monkey. Away aloft after him, from mast to mast, and from yard to yard, while Jacko would bound from one rope to the other, almost within their reach, chattering as if in mockery at their futile efforts to catch him, until exhausted they had to come slowly down on deck, their shipmates nearly as fatigued as themselves with laughter at Jacko's feats of agility, as well as at the rueful, disappointed faces of his would-be captors. Jacko would then come down when it suited himself, which would just be when he was hungry. Changing our climate, and getting into cold weather, soon made Jacko give up his excursions

aloft, and behave himself better; then all the sympathies of the sailors were brought out at seeing him shivering at the door of his little house, and moaning piteously with the cold. Old rags, old stockings, &c., were now hunted up to line his house with, and keep him warm.

In their wild state, monkeys are equally full of fun and mischief, and I have seen them in Burmah in whole troops and families on fine evenings, near the river side, gamboling and playing all sorts of grotesque tricks to one another, the older members of the tribe looking on as quietly and gravely as if they were human.

In Madras, monkeys are held as sacred animals by the superstitious natives, and are allowed to live in families on their flat-roofed houses, and it is laughable in the extreme to watch them as they spring from house to house, and ledge to ledge, sure-footed as goats on a mountain top. The younger members of the family cling to the backs of their parents, while others bring along all the old rags they have stolen to make their beds.

The sweetmeat vender in Madras will never injure the monkey stealing sweetmeats under his very nose; he may drive him away for the time, but if he turns

away he is soon back again stealing, and as impudent as before. Since the terrible mutiny of 1857, the superstitions of the natives of India are gradually but surely giving way before the glorious gospel of our Saviour, which is now spreading throughout the length and breadth of that long-benighted land.

A VOYAGE TO THE GUANO ISLANDS OF PERU.

THESE Islands are called the Chinchas, and it is now over twenty years since I first visited them on board a Liverpool ship called the "Collector." We sailed in June, 1849, our cargo consisting of bricks and patent fuel to be landed at Coquimbo on the coast of Chili. We had quite a fine passage to the equator and well south towards the Falkland Islands, but were well aware what we might expect off Cape Horn, as it was now the dead of winter in these latitudes. The weather became colder as we proceeded to the southward towards Cape Horn, and the nights much longer.

As we approached Cape Horn our best sails were bent to encounter the heavy gales we expected at this time of the year, and our water casks, spars, &c., were well secured with good lashings. Gales of wind now began to be frequent, and storms of snow and sleet were of common occurrence. The heavy seas to be

met with here are something unusual in other parts of the world, the long stretch of thousands of miles of ocean causing a heavy sea in any gale, as there is a heavy swell even when there is no wind.

No sooner had we set a little sail to get round this boisterous Cape than it had to be again taken in, as we vainly tried to buffet the gale and make a little westing, tossing and plunging about in the tremendous seas ever and anon rolling along. Wet with salt water, perishing with cold, still we must get up and take in sail, but we managed it very well, if sail was not carried too long. A glass of rum was often served out to us, which for a time put a glow within us, but after its effects had died away, we felt chilled and almost as cold as before.

On one particularly cold night, a small sail called the main trisail had to be taken in; it was blowing a perfect hurricane at the time, and the ship had to be *wore* round on the opposite tack in order to avoid drifting on an island to leeward. But the cold was so intense, together with the strength of the wind, that the united efforts of sixteen good men could hardly get it quieted and taken in for a whole hour. At length we managed to wear round on the opposite tack, and escape the much dreaded island. We now had

to make a desperate effort to carry some more sail in order to get clear, and it was some hours before we got sufficient sail set to make sure of keeping off the rocks.

At length fatigued and perishing with the excessive cold, we were allowed some rest, and our glass of raw strong rum put a little heat in us for the time. Day after day and week after week the same fearful gales kept us back, and the long, dreary cold nights were enough to damp the courage of many a crew, for no sooner had we made a good distance by a favourable point or two of the wind, than again it would come down from the same quarter, hard, cold and furious as ever, driving us back more than we had gained.

Some of our crew now began to have scurvy, which appeared in their legs and mouths, by the long use of salt meat and constant exposure to this terrible weather; our decks where the men's hammocks were slung being so leaky that a constant stream of water came through their leaky seams, saturating bed-clothes and hammocks. Various were the means tried to keep the water clear of our beds; greasing a track under the deck for it to run clear, but this was of little avail. Often as the watch below was called "all hands shorten sail," have we got out and found

our den of a fore-castle ankle deep with water, as our deep loaded ship lurched and rolled to and fro, trying to dress on the top of our chests to keep clear of the water, but in danger of being sent flying to leeward, chests and all, at each successive roll.

Such are a few of the many discomforts experienced by sailors in rounding Cape Horn; but there is no escape from these miseries, as round the Horn the ship must go, if we can only keep her afloat. Fortunately our ship made but little water in her bottom or top sides, and stood all this rolling, pitching and straining remarkably well. The captain was a good sort of man, on his first voyage as such; he had, however, a very headstrong way of carrying sail, which gave us all the more trouble, as we were aware that he did not attend to the warnings of the barometer. This instrument, when well understood, will always warn the shipmaster of approaching gales in those latitudes, and save much extra labour to the crew by attending to its warnings in time.

As we drifted about in this miserable way, scarcely holding our own at times, one after the other of our crew gave in with various ailments, scurvy being the most prevalent, till nine were laid up out of our crew of twenty-four. These nine being mostly working sea-

men, the work came heavier on the rest of the crew. Eight long weeks had we now been buffeted about off this weary, desolate cape, and very little chance of a change. At length about the ninth week we managed to get fairly round, *i.e.*, to double Cape Horn, and keeping well off this much dreaded coast, were standing to the northward, under all sail, the warmth of the climate increasing day by day, until fairly within the limits of the south-east trades. Our battered ship, as well as our worn-out crew, now began to look better, and we soon sighted the lofty peaks of the Andes; nearer and nearer we stood in towards the coast of Chili, the mountains rising higher and higher, and some of their peaks touching the clouds. These mountains are visible seventy, eighty, and even ninety miles at sea, and it can well be imagined how they look in their grandness and magnificence as we approach the coast, some being over twenty thousand feet in height above the level of the sea.

Entering by quite a narrow opening, we were soon at anchor in the harbour of Coquimbo, after a terrible passage of four months from Liverpool. Surrounding us on the heights round the harbour were quite a number of smelting works, for making pigs of copper, which is brought from the mines to this port in large quantities.

Our sick were now landed, and it was remarkable how soon the scurvy disappeared, as plenty of good oranges, as well as potatoes and other esculents were to be had in abundance. One man, whose legs were quite black, as the scurvy slowly moved upwards towards his body, would every afternoon, on coming on board, shew us his legs becoming lighter in their colour and perceptibly getting rapidly better, by the use of oranges and potatoes, &c., as well as by being daily in contact with the earth on shore, after this long sea-voyage.

We were all now busily employed discharging our cargo of bricks and patent fuel. This patent fuel is composed of a mixture of small, smithy coals, and what is called coal tar, formed and dried in large, thick, square cakes, and in handling this disagreeable stuff, the dust getting into our eyes in the hot sun, nearly destroyed our eyesight for the time; the pain was almost maddening, and there were some of the crew who could not work until its effects were eradicated from their eyes. La Serena is the principal city, distant from Coquimbo about seven miles. It is a city of but small importance, but is the place where vessels enter and clear at the custom-house.

We were not long in discharging cargo, and taking in ballast for Callao, the port of entry for vessels

bound to the Guano Islands. Our anchor up and sail set, we once more resumed our route, steering nearly due north, but keeping well out to sea, in order to have the full strength of the south-east trades. Our crew were now quite well, and with the fine weather of these latitudes we all forgot what we had suffered in rounding Cape Horn. Our steward deserted the ship in Coquimbo, but we soon had another in his place, equally well up to his duties.

Strong trade winds carried us along fast on our course to Callao, and in eight days from Coquimbo we arrived off the island of San Lorenzo, at the entrance of the port. Light winds at length carried us into the harbour after a very favourable passage. Callao is in latitude 12° south, and is the sea-port of Lima, the capital of Peru. At the time I speak of it was the port of entry for vessels bound to the Guano Islands. As a harbour it is entirely land-locked, and quite a fleet of ships of all sizes can easily find shelter here. But Callao itself is but a miserable, poor-looking place, with very few buildings of importance, and its streets mean, tortuous and rugged.

Having filled up our water casks with water of the best quality, we had now to beat along the coast against the south-east trades to the islands, a distance

of ninety miles. Standing well out to sea at night, we made a stretch in towards the land in the morning, but alas! we had made but little of it, as we only fetched back to the place we left the morning before. At length we managed to reach the Guano Islands in about eight days from Callao, and proceeded under all sail right through among the shipping, at the islands, to a small place called Piseo, seven miles off, where we had once more to anchor and re-enter at the custom-house, before going back to the islands.

This foolish programme had to be gone through by every ship visiting these islands twenty years ago. First to enter the ship at Callao for the Islands, then before anchoring proceeded to Piseo to re-enter; coming back with your ship a distance of only seven miles, involving time, labour and expense. Anchored at Piseo we went on shore in the boat, but there is along the coast at this place a most dangerous surf always running on the low sandy beach, and many boats have been capsized in attempting to land here, the captains and boat's crew very often being drowned. It was therefore with considerable apprehension that we pulled our boat in through the surf, all depending on good steering, and keeping the oars well clear as the heavy breakers came rolling along, for if the boat once came

broadside on, she was sure to capsize. Once more getting our clearance from Pisco we were on our way back to the islands, and getting one of the captains acquainted there, we came to anchor off the North Island, where quite a number of ships were waiting for their turn at the guano shoots. The North, Middle and South Islands were at this time heavily covered with deposits of guano ninety feet deep, and in some parts were almost inaccessible from the sea, their circumference not being more than two miles each. At this place the water is generally very smooth, and though somewhat deep yet there is good holding ground for ships of large tonnage. We now prepared to take in enough guano by our boats to ballast the ship until our turn came at the large shoot.

The long boat and pinnace were manned, and each morning hauled into the boat shoot. A long canvas hose was sent down from the rocks, about 100 feet above our heads, and as soon as our boat was moored stern on to the island, the signal was given *all ready*, and immediately there came down a rush of guano through the hose into the boat, almost blinding and suffocating the four of us in charge. When there happened to be no wind our position was almost unbearable, as we held our heads clear of the boat trying to

get a breath of fresh air, the dust not unlike that of a flour mill, and the ammonia, with which the guano abounds, being suffocating in its affects; but our boat containing ten tons in bulk, was soon loaded, and seated among the guano we pulled towards the ship, where our boat was discharged in a short time, the guano being thrown into the hold in bulk to be trimmed at leisure. In this way we managed to get enough on board to admit of our discharging the ballast, and had now to wait our turn for the purpose of loading at the *Manguero*, or large shoot for ships. Our time, as we lay here, was passed in keeping the ship clean, and in excursions round the islands. Fish were very plentiful, and good herrings could be caught by the seine spread under our bows, or large quantities of mackerel by the simple process of tying three fish hooks together and lowering them under our boat; this was called *jigging*; sometimes two and three being thus jigged at the same time, so plentiful were they round the islands.

The weather is always fine in those latitudes; the sun in the day time being hot, but far from oppressive, while the nights are cool, with a heavy dew falling. During our stay of ten weeks here, we never once had a shower of rain, and rain is almost unknown all the

year round on this part of the coast. At length our turn came to haul the ship under the great shoot, where in a few hours we could take in our whole cargo of nearly 1000 tons, besides our 200 already on board. Getting lines passed ashore under the directions of the pilot of the islands, we hauled on board the large shoot first of all to the main hatch, when at the signal, tons of guano were soon rushing into the hold, from the rocks above our mast heads, enveloping the ship in a perfect cloud of dust from the guano, which penetrates the inmost nook in the cabin, spoiling everything if not carefully covered beforehand, veering and hauling on the tackle guiding the shoot into the hatchway as the swell causes the ship to rise and fall. We very soon had sufficient to keep our trimmers below in employment, shovelling and stowing fore and aft.

Trimmers are well paid, but their work is excessively severe on the constitution. Sometimes they are obliged to come up from the hold, the blood streaming from their nose and mouth.

Our ship was loaded in from six to seven hours, and we once more hauled out to the anchorage to clear decks and prepare for returning to Callao, to fill up water and obtain our clearance for London. We soon were gladly heaving up on our return voyage to London *via* Callao,

as we were now fully eight months out at this time, and with a fair wind we sailed at night from the Guano Islands, reaching Callao on the following day by noon. As usual with ships on a long voyage, our crew were allowed twenty-four hours leave, the starboard watch under the second mate taking the first turn on shore; when the mates watch on being relieved took their twenty-four hours. Some of our men took horses for Lima, but most of them remained in Callao, drinking and carousing until it was time to go on board.

When several ships' crews were thus allowed on shore after being confined so long on board ship, it was ludicrous in the extreme to watch the bent of their inclinations, as some, hiring cabs, &c., would have a drive into the country, resolved to be gentlemen for one day at least; others sitting down in some low grogery would spend all their liberty money (generally one month's pay) at a sitting, that is to say, they would not leave until half-carried to the boat, drunk as they were, by their more sober and sensible shipmates; still another portion would be found who had not forgotten mothers and sisters, wives and sweethearts at home, but were laying out a portion of their liberty money in purchasing curiosities of all kinds to take home, as a memento of their voyage to Peru. The boat landing for the liberty

men is now waiting, and as she leaves the landing place loaded with half-drunken sailors, (and some who are wholly so) it would be laughable only for its extreme danger, as some of our half-drunken crew keep moving round in the boat, in danger of falling overboard every moment.

The ship is at length reached, and for those who are too drunk to get on deck by the usual rope ladder, a rope is sent down, and they are soon hoisted on deck and safely deposited in their bunks to sleep off their debauch ; for our sailors are somewhat thoughtful about their drunken shipmates, and will invariably try to take care of them until they can take care of themselves.

On the day following we prepared to leave for London, and heaving our anchor short we loosed and set our topsails, waiting for the captain to come on board and make a start. But the devil was on board in the shape of sundry skins of rum, which set all the crew nearly crazy. Three of our best men took it into their heads all at once that they would serve Her Majesty the Queen on board the "Asia," a line-of-battle ship of seventy-four guns, lying in Callao. The signal was given to the man-of-war by tying a blue shirt to the starboard fore lift, but no answer was visible in the

shape of manning and sending a boat on board for our volunteers.

Seeing that their signal was disregarded by the commander of the "Asia" our volunteers took down the blue shirt from the fore lift and substituted a white sheet, still more deeply to impress the commanding officer of the "Asia" with the information that there were anxious volunteers on board the "Collector" who wished to serve the Queen. Still the commanding officer did not seem to see it: firstly, as he had his full complement of 700 men on board, secondly, as her Majesty Queen Victoria was then at peace with all the world, thirdly and lastly, because the commander had more common sense than to disable a merchant ship on the point of sailing by taking any of the crew from her in time of peace. The captain now made his appearance, and on coming alongside gave the order "man the windlass, up anchor," but none of us would move; he enquired the reason, and soon found that our volunteers were the cause. As we refused to heave the anchor up, until these three men came to their senses and their duty, the captain very wisely went on board the man-of-war, claiming the commander's assistance in getting the ship under way, and in bringing his mutinous and disobedient crew to reason.

Soon afterward, as we sat round the decks, determined not to way anchor, the Launch of the "Asia" was seen pulling towards us, and we could soon see the first lieutenant, coxswain, and about twenty able seamen, all in their uniforms, approach the ship. Mounting the side ladder, we were confronted by our captain and the lieutenant, who very quietly demanded our reasons for not weighing anchor. Some of our speakers now told him that we would do so if these three men did their work, but as they wished to enter the service, we objected to go to sea three men short. Reasoning with the three ring-leaders, he told them that the *Asia* was not in want of men, advising us all to return to our duty.

As no terms could be come to with us, Lieutenant Collins at once called his men up, who proceeded to weigh the anchor, in spite of our protests to the contrary. Sail was soon made and the "Collector" standing out to sea under charge of the man-of-war's crew. As we reached the Island of San Lorenzo, the ship was hove-to, and the lieutenant with his men prepared to leave, and he once more quietly told us that if we attempted to bring the ship back, we should all be taken on shore and tried for mutiny. No one seemed to like this idea, and all hands, including our volunteers

for her Majesty's Navy, were soon once more at their duties as the ship stood out to sea, getting more sober every hour as the effects of the bad rum died away and we inhaled the pure breezes of the Pacific.

We made good progress to the southward to round Cape Horn. But alas! our too economical captain had provided but ninety days provisions for what might be a five or six months passage, and we soon found that our stock of tea was all finished. Still we had plenty of coffee, for a reasonable time at least, and with fair winds we might make the passage home in three months. Going on towards Cape Horn we had whole gales of fair wind and soon reached the above place. As we proceeded to the northward our stores began to get short one after the other, and having still a long passage before us after we reached the equator every care was taken that we should have our strict allowance in order to make the remaining stores hold out.

We now entered the north-east trades and made good progress on our homeward passage, still our stock of provisions was getting smaller, as we were now about three months out from Callao. Our allowances were now reduced to half a pound of beef or pork and half a pound of biscuit to each man for the day; our pease, barley, &c., being now all finished, as well as coffee and

sugar. Leaving the trades we had a succession of strong easterly winds which retarded our progress, and still brought our short allowance shorter. Day after day those head winds continued, and we were glad to get small quantities of bread from vessels bound the same way, but which were nearly as badly off as ourselves. Our allowance was now curtailed to a quarter of a pound of biscuit and the same of beef or pork. Fortunately we had plenty of water to drink.

Still our head winds continued for nearly three whole weeks, and as the duties of the ship had to be carried on the same as if on full allowance, the want of sufficient food soon became visible in our care-worn, hungry-looking faces. Boarding a French fisherman bound to Newfoundland one fine day, we secured a small bag of good biscuit, but had to pay well for it; some of the fishermen on board also made us a present of a bag of herrings, which was very thankfully received, and gave us one or two good meals. As we drew towards the end of the fourth month at sea the wind sometimes favoured us on our course, and we were again allowed our half pound of beef and bread, but no sooner did we have a change of wind than our wretched quarter pound was carefully doled out to us.

At length our weary passage came near to a close as we approached the Irish coast, and on the day we received our long expected and welcome pilot on board we had about one day's full allowance of bread still remaining. Our pilot at length brought us safely to anchor in the then Cove of Cork, fatigued, worn out and hungry enough, but we soon had plenty of good fresh bread, potatoes and beef sent on board, and like most sailors forgot all our miseries in the midst of plenty after a four months passage. Receiving our orders to proceed to London we arrived there in a few days more ; our voyage to the Chinha Islands and home having lasted twelve months. With a good sum of money in each man's pocket, no one would have thought, seeing how reckless and extravagant we were, that we had suffered so much on this tedious voyage to the Guano Islands.

THE MARINE BAROMETER.

THIS is an instrument of inestimable value to the mariner who is careful of the lives and property placed under his charge on board ships and steamers on the ocean. Simple in its construction it is easily understood, and its readings noted to tenths of an inch of its rising and falling, give sure warnings of approaching gales at sea, as well as expected fine weather, so that by attending to this timely and faithful monitor many a fine ship with valuable lives and property are saved from destruction. On the other hand, by neglecting its warnings, many a fine vessel as well as many valuable lives are lost. I have often watched with intense anxiety its indications before a hurricane in India as well as before storms on the Atlantic, when it showed me that the heaviest portion of the storm had passed over the ship, and that I might soon expect to have better weather, enabling me to set more sail and to proceed on my voyage, until the mercury again falling advised

me to reduce sail, and by doing so in time, save masts and sails, as well as fatiguing and harrassing my crew. The following story will illustrate the use of the barometer and demonstrate its value more fully :

It was very late in the fall of 1857 that I left Quebec in command of the ship "Vortigern," on her second homeward trip. She was a staunch, powerful ship of one thousand tons, with a crew of thirty-two, all told. My owners, anxious to get her clear in time, engaged a powerful tug to tow her down clear of the St Lawrence. Another ship, the "Mississippi," was also towed at the same time on her first passage across the Atlantic. We had fine, cold, frosty weather, with scarcely any wind all the way down, and as we approached Bic Island, where the tug and pilots were to leave, the unusual height of the mercury and appearance of the weather indicated an easterly wind, and I was advised by my pilot to anchor under the island in case we should be caught in an easterly gale. Hailing the "Mississippi" I asked how his barometer stood, to which he replied, "I have no barometer." Both ships now came to anchor, the pilots and tug returning to Quebec. In a few hours a nice steady breeze sprung up from the westward, when both vessels were soon getting anchors up and sail set. We were shortly under way

down the gulf, carrying all sail, the breeze increasing as we went on. The two vessels were about equally matched and kept company for two full days. The breeze carried us outside the gulf, and on to Bank St Peter, but we had parted company with the "Mississippi," and the wind now came round from the east with hazy weather. On the fifth night it fell nearly dead calm, and while walking with the second mate a little after eight o'clock I went to look at the barometer and found that the mercury had fallen considerably. I then ordered royals and top-gallant-sails to be all taken in—the top-sails were then flapping quietly against the masts and an ominous stillness prevailed. About ten at night the barometer had fallen to rather an alarming extent, when I immediately gave orders to the second mate, who had twelve good men in his watch, to furl everything except the fore and main topsails which were snugly close-reefed, and fore-top-mast stay-sail. All being finished and all secured about the decks, we waited for the expected heavy gale, but still not a breath of wind. At midnight the mate looked up at our now reduced sail, when calling his attention to the fall of the barometer he at once saw what was coming; and we had not long to wait, for about one in the morning a fresh breeze came away from north-west, when squar-

ing our yards we were soon steering to the eastward on our course, the breeze increasing to a gale every moment. By two in the morning it was blowing a heavy gale with tremendous squalls of sleet and snow, and the sea getting heavier as we bowled along before it, with two hands snugly ensconced in the wheelhouse, she steered like a little boat. The gale now increased to a perfect hurricane, the furious squalls at times being perfectly deafening. The mate now advised me to heave-to, but calling his attention to her excellent steering and how well she behaved, I said I could not think of heaving her to with a fair wind blowing, although it was such a hurricane ; I also knew that we had no icebergs nor fishermen in our way, and with a good look-out we kept as near our course before the wind as we could, patiently and anxiously waiting for daylight. I remarked to the mate that I was afraid something had happened to the "Mississippi" in such a hurricane, as the captain had no barometer to warn him of its approach. Daylight at last came and we were able to set the foresail, all our sails being nearly new and well tried on our outward passage. Our fair winds continued until near the coast of Ireland, when we had a succession of easterly winds, but in about twenty days from Quebec we arrived all right in the Clyde. Several

days passed after our arrival, but still no word of the "Mississippi." One of my owners asking if I had seen anything of her, of course I related to him our having been in company the first few days, but I had good reason to fear that she had suffered in that heavy gale on the Banks, as I knew she had no barometer on board, and so it turned out — she arriving at Queenstown in about three weeks after under jury masts. She had lost all but the stumps of her three lower masts, and her crew were well worn out, having to keep all the time at her pumps, she leaked so much through straining in the gale already spoken of. It will thus be seen what an immense amount of property and time as well as labour might have been saved by having one of these faithful and silent monitors on board and attending to its warnings.

In the Indian Ocean and other parts where the Cyclones or revolving storms prevail, these instruments are of infinite value in warning the shipmaster to keep from the centre or vortex, which is the most dangerous part of the storm, and generally a dead calm, and the most dangerous part for a ship to be in. He can also, if expert in the theory of the law of storms, be able to find his way out of a revolving storm by watching how the storm is approaching, and observing, as

often as he can be off the deck, the mercury's rising and falling, and by the veering of the wind at the ship make his way to the outer and safest edge of the now fast approaching hurricane. With these few remarks I close this article on that most valuable instrument, the marine barometer.

A RACE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

IN these days of fast steamers and fast ships, it is a great matter to provide for safety as well as swiftness.

In many steamers crossing the Atlantic especially, too reckless a use is made of their steam power in order to be an hour or two a-head of an opposition company's steamer, whereby the lives of the passengers and crew are placed in jeopardy, and the vessel herself, and her valuable cargo, exposed to destruction. Sailing vessels are not exposed to the same dangers, and the following story of a race between two sailing ships, will, I am sure, be acceptable to the readers of these anecdotes.

In the fall of 1858 I had taken a cargo of iron work for the Victoria Bridge to Montreal, and was about to leave on my homeward passage to Liverpool at the same time that the well known clipper ship "Shandon" was also to sail for the Clyde. My ship, the "Nestorian," was on her second homeward trip,

and I was confident in her sailing qualities, with the wind a little free. Bidding good-bye to captain G. and his estimable wife, we wished each other a good passage home. I remarked that I would have but little chance with the far-famed "Shandon," but should the wind keep free at all on the way home, I would give her a heat. I soon obtained my clearance papers at the custom-house, and hastening on board with the pilot saw the "Shandon" passing round Point Levi with top-gallant sails. I was soon after getting the anchor up and sail made on the "Nestorian," and in about an hour started on our way down the river with a fine steady breeze of fair wind. As we proceeded we could see the "Shandon" well a-head in the bends of the river. As night approached we still went on, but found the "Shandon" had anchored for the night in the Traverses. Now, I thought, we could give her a heat. Onward we sped to the pilot station, where my pilot left the ship. The breeze freshening and still keeping fair, as we passed ship after ship bound the same way, I was still more confident in the sailing qualities of my ship. As we proceeded down the Gulf of St. Lawrence the wind freshened to a strong gale from north-west, with snow squalls. Scudding before it, and steering well, I was soon outside of the Islands

of St Paul's, but there was still no sign of the "Shandon" coming up on us. About the fifth day out, when on one of the Banks of Newfoundland, we had the wind from the eastward. Tacking about we soon found our friend the "Shandon" in company, and as she tacked close by, was very soon miles to windward of us. This somewhat dampened my hopes of giving her a heat, now that she had the start of me again; however, we soon had our friendly westerly gale again, and dashed along steadily on our course to the eastward. About half way on our passage the wind came from the northward with sharp, heavy squalls at intervals, rendering it necessary to single-reef our top-sails, but still keeping the top-gallant sails set over, holding steadily on our course, but standing by halliards fore and aft, when the squalls came down. One morning we saw a large ship considerably a-head of us, and carrying every stitch of sail, but as each squall came down, she kept away off her course considerably, losing ground as we kept steadily on; we soon made her out to be the "Shandon." I now ordered a new top-mast stunsail to be reefed, and with good preventer brace, sheets, &c., ran off before the wind in order to set the sail. As she came gently up to her course again, we soon felt the increased pressure of the stun.

sail, as our ship dashed along like a racehorse again on her course. The "Shandon" perceptibly lost her ground as she still carried her small sails, and bore off her course at each successive squall. By evening of the same day, the "Shandon" was nearly out of sight astern. As we still proceeded on our course, the squalls became lighter and the wind steadier, allowing us to set all sail. On the sixteenth night after leaving Quebec we sighted the desired light steered for, on the Irish coast, in the North Channel, and in the morning were hailed by a Clyde pilot boat. As I was bound for Liverpool, I did not require a pilot, but asked if the "Shandon" had gone up yet or not. I was answered "No, sir, not that we know of." Then thought I, we have beaten her. The wind was now south-west, strong against us for going to Liverpool, and as we tacked about in the narrow channel between Cantire and Rathlin, the man at the helm called my attention to a large ship about six or seven miles off, which we at once knew to be the "Shandon." She was soon coming to windward like a steamer, and on her way up the Clyde, while I parted from her on my way to Liverpool, where I arrived the following day: we thus had beaten her fully an hour and a half from Quebec to Cantire. The "Shandon" is still in the Montreal trade

from the Clyde, but there are no doubt faster vessels than she is in the trade now, as this was twelve years since.

THE COOLIE TRADE AND ITS HORRORS.

THERE are many of the readers of these anecdotes who have heard of the traffic between the East and West Indies in Coolie emigrants who are sent to the West Indies in vast numbers to take the place of the now liberated negroes on the plantations in the cultivation of sugar. To those, as well as to such as have not heard of this traffic, the following account of a trip with these people on board may be acceptable, as showing, to some extent, how the emigrants are treated, as well as the terrible effects of that scourge Cholera on board ship. During the winter of 1859 the ship "Thomas Hamlin," of which I was then master, was engaged in Calcutta to convey four hundred men, women and children to Demerara, in the colony of British Guiana. These natives of India are mostly from the interior, and consist chiefly of Hindoos of all castes, from the proud but poor Brahmin to the lowest

grades of Coolie and Pariah. The Mussulmen are also poor people of the labouring class, who are glad to get away to this land of promise, perfectly in ignorance of the long sea-voyage and its effects as well as of the work which they are required to do on their arrival. Agents are employed to go up country, and by all sorts of seductive stories allure these poor people to Calcutta with promises of future fortune when they reach this Eldorado of their hopes, where there is but little to do and only a life of luxury and indolence before them.

These agents are employed by the agent of the Colonial Government of Demerara in Calcutta to procure emigrants for the colony, and are paid so much per head for each man, woman and child so procured and brought down to the depot in Calcutta, where as many as twelve hundred at a time are sometimes collected waiting shipment. The emigrants are located in long rows of sheds at the depot, and are well cared for and well fed, having medical aid when it is needed. Qualified surgeons, both European and native, are attached to each depot, so that no blame rests with the government of India or Demerara in providing for the wants of those poor people while under their supervision; the blame, if any, being more with the unprincipled native agents already spoken of who

wilfully misrepresent and colour much too highly the true state of affairs and what is expected of the people on their arrival in the West Indies.

The 'tween decks of the ship, lofty and well ventilated, with an hospital for the sick separated from the rest, is now well scrubbed and cleaned with holystones and sand, and prepared for the reception of the emigrants. Samples of the provisions are ready for the Protector of Emigrants' inspection, viz., rice, dholl, a sort of native pea, dried fish, ghee or butter, turmeric, tobacco, jaggary or native tobacco, bread and all the other necessaries used by natives of India, even the water to be used during the voyage must be ready on board for his inspection. After having received the Protector of Emigrants' certificate that the provisions and water are of good quality and that the vessel is ready and in good condition for the reception of the emigrants—the master having complied with all the provisions of the emigration act—we now drop the ship down to the emigration wharf to embark the people. The doctor of the ship, also appointed by the agent for the colony, the protector of emigrants, myself as master, and the officers of the ship, have to superintend and assist in the embarkation of the emigrants. A good gangway is placed from the ship to the wharf, and soon

a long procession of natives is seen approaching the vessel, men, women and children dressed in the scanty cotton cloth of the country, and carrying with them their little bundles of clothing and other necessaries. We assist the women and children carefully down the different stairs to the 'tween decks, where every precaution has been taken to prevent injury or accidents to the people in their strange new quarters on a long voyage.

Laying down their blankets on the clean deck, for we have no sleeping berths fitted up, each family selects their place for the voyage, the single men and single women having places apart from each other and from the families. Very little confusion prevails as they take their places, but a good deal of talking in Bengalee and Hindostanee. In about an hour we have all embarked and the ship is comparatively quiet; the pilot and steam tug are both ready, and we at once drop down the sacred river for sea. Preparations are at once made for cooking and seeing to the sanitary rules of the ship. Twelve cooks are selected from the emigrants, some of whom have been Sepoys in the now disbanded native army, and it is whispered that some of them have belonged to revolted regiments during the late terrible mutiny in India, but they keep quiet

enough on board ship ; they are paid a small sum by the colony for their services during the voyage. There are also eight native Topazes or sweepers, whose duty it is to sweep and keep clean the decks, and look after the cleaning of the water-closets and hospital. Eight Sirdars are also appointed, who are on watch by turns night and day to give notice of cases of sickness and to keep order among the emigrants, acting as constables, and keeping a strict look-out in cases of fire, and to prevent smoking among the emigrants below. The third mate of the ship is appointed to serve out the provisions to the cooks every morning, for the day, and to give the daily allowance of water to each man, woman, and child. His duty is also to superintend the Topazes, Sirdars and cooks, seeing that the rules of the ship are carried out. His situation is by no means a sinecure, as he is constantly on duty in the day time, but taking no part in the duties of the ship. The second officer takes turns with the chief in seeing the emigrants all sent on deck in fine weather, and two or three times a week forty or fifty men are sent to scrub the 'tween decks with dry holystones and sand.

Having got well down the river the doctor and I were much pleased that thus far we had no cases of cholera, as this terrible scourge shows itself very often a few

hours after embarking the emigrants, and before getting to sea many deaths occur in ships engaged in this trade ; doubtless caused by the heat and malaria on the banks of the river. One young woman is sick with pthisis, but as we approach the Pilot Station well clear of the river, and into the pure air of the open Bay of Bengal, we are still congratulating ourselves in so far escaping from the merciless scourge just referred to. True, it was rumoured that previous to embarkation the cholera had been long among the emigrants at the depot, and one man was attacked with it while on his way to the ship, who was immediately taken back, but still we are hopeful of getting out to sea all right. Our pilot leaves us at the eastern lightship, and casting off the tug steamer we are soon under all sail down the Bay of Bengal.

At this season of the year the north-east Monsoon prevails, and the sea is as smooth as glass, with cool, clear weather and a fine breeze of fair wind. As we proceeded on our voyage every precaution was taken to prevent sickness, but a few days after leaving, our unseen enemy and scourge, which has been evidently lurking among us, makes it's appearance. Seated in the after-cabin reading, I am startled by the abrupt entrance of the doctor, who announces to me the terrible fact that, with all our precautions, real Asiatic cholera has made its appear-

anee on board among the people. Looking at his alarmed countenance I tried to persuade myself as well as him that he was surely mistaken, but no, I must come down with him at once to the 'tween decks. Proceeding with him down among the two rows of Coolies stretched along the 'tween decks, we came to a strong-looking man, who appeared to me not to be suffering much, but who was, it appears, in the last stage of cholera. His wife was assisting him as well as she could, and every care was taken of him to alleviate his sufferings, but it was all in vain; in about four hours from being attacked he was dead. This was our second death, the woman I spoke of before having died of pthisis. This man's wife was now attacked, and she, with three of her four children, died nearly as quickly as her husband. Justly alarmed now I determined on trying to eradicate this terrible plague from the ship, or at least to endeavour to prevent it spreading as much as possible among the emigrants and my own crew of twenty-seven men.

I now ordered a tent to be rigged on our long poop deck for any who should be taken sick, and as the weather was quite mild and the ship moving quietly and steadily along on her course, the emigrants were all ordered on deck and the process of cleaning and fumi-

gating the ship commenced. Fifty of the strongest men were selected, my own crew assisting, and the 'tween decks, fore and aft, having been well scrubbed with holystones and sand, were now washed clean down, and the water being well swept off, charecoal fires were lighted at intervals in the 'tween decks, and the decks well dried. Large quantities of chloride of lime were now sprinkled over all, and after their clothing had been opened out on deck and well aired the emigrants were allowed to come down again to their places below; but alas! all was of little avail, for our dread enemy still continued on board, men, women, and children being seized one after the other, and in spite of our utmost efforts, three, four and five deaths were occurring daily.

My readers may well conceive the trying position in which as master of the ship I was placed, both on the ground of common humanity to these poor people, as well as the loss to my employers, as every death on board was a loss to them, passage money being paid only for those landed alive in the colony. Men were bewailing in Hindostanee the loss of their wives, as they tried in their grief to suceour the children now left without a mother; women were wailing and crying for the loss of their husbands, by this time left far behind in the depths of the Indian Ocean, a prey to

the voracious shark, which invariably follows a ship where deaths are so frequent. The scenes of distress and sorrow on board at this time when the cholera was at its height were enough to sicken and appal the stoutest heart: women coming to me and appealing to me to save their husband or their dead or dying children: putting their heads to my feet on the ship's deck, poor creatures, as if I were something superhuman, they would cry despairingly in Hindostanee: "Oh Sahib, Sahib, humara baba, humara baba." "Oh sir, sir, my child, my child." "Sahib, humara Adami morgia." "Sir, my husband is dead," as if I could restore the dead or dying to life and health.

We were approaching the equator about three weeks after leaving Calcutta, and I thought as we changed our latitude so quickly that there was a sensible decrease in the number of cases: deaths were not so frequent, though still we had one or two daily. One of my own crew who had been long ailing with chronic dysentery now died, after every effort had been made to save his life; his body sewed up in canvas was laid on the carpenter's bench with shot at the feet to sink it, and covered with the Union Jack of old England. We waited for sunset to perform the last solemn services of the Church of England over the

body before committing it to the deep, leaving an ordinary seaman to watch over it. At sunset mustering all the crew in clean clothes and ranged on each side of the body as the mates laid the plank on which it lay, on the rail, I took my place at the head and proceeded with the service, as appropriate as it is touching; and nothing can more sensibly touch and soften the hardest heart of the most reckless of the crew than the beautiful service of the Church of England, and nothing can be more impressive or for the time more solemn than this burial service at sea. At the words "we commit his body to the deep," the plank is gently raised by the mates, and the body sliding off feet downwards goes down with a sullen plunge into the unfathomable depths of the ocean to be no more known until "the sea shall give up its dead." So ended the burial of poor John Brown, one of my best sailors, and the most exemplary and steadiest of my crew. A Swede by birth, he had long suffered both on the outward passage and in Calcutta. It was my wish to let him remain in hospital there, but the medical adviser of the ship advised me that the change at sea would do him good, but God had otherwise ordered it. Our Coolie emigrants gathered in clusters, looking on in wonder and astonishment at the preparations for the

funeral and the reading of the service, and well they might, for no such ceremonies were performed over the bodies of any of their friends who were so suddenly taken away by cholera. When a death happened the body was rolled up in the blanket on which the person died, and carried to a place set apart for the purpose near the hospital, laid there for an hour or so, and was then carried on deck by the Topazes appointed for the purpose, and without ceremony cast into the sea. Sometimes the wail of the women for husbands or children was heard for a short time as the bodies were thus ruthlessly disposed of. But what could we do in these cases, the sooner we were rid of the dead for the sake of the living the better. On reaching the south-east trade winds in the Indian Ocean we had fine steady breezes, and our noble ship bowled along on her course for the Cape of Good Hope, where we were bound in terms of our Charter Party to call for fresh water and provisions. The cholera was now sensibly stopping its ravages, but we still had isolated cases, together with dysentery and diarrhæa; still the health of the ship was decidedly improving, and as we found the weather getting colder, extra blankets and warm clothing were served out to each man, woman and child.

Our emigrants had a very dangerous custom of climbing up on the rails and seating themselves on the top, without any precaution or holding on by any rope, so that the least lurch of the ship would assuredly throw them overboard. I had warned them repeatedly and given orders to the officers and crew to stop this dangerous habit when they could. The following strange incident occurred in connection with this very dangerous custom, which I shall relate here:—

Seated at my cabin table one day arranging my papers, the mate busy doing some work forward, and the deck crowded with passengers, the day being fine, I was startled by the cry from the man at the helm, “a man overboard.” Rushing on deck I give the orders, “hard down your helm, cut away the life buoys, clear away the quarter boat, and lower her away. Be quick, men, be quick,” and in from five to seven minutes the mate was away with four hands in the boat, in search of the man overboard. The orders had been promptly and quickly obeyed; but the ship’s way is not yet stopped, as she has been going nearly ten miles an hour with stunsails, and all plain sail set. We now proceed to take in sail and heave the ship to to wait for the boat, and I find that one of our emigrants perched on the rail, as usual, has lost his balance, and

fallen overboard. Waiting anxiously for the boat I mount the rigging with the spyglass and see her pulling towards the ship, but three or four miles off. As the boat comes within hailing distance after being away an hour, I ask the mate if he has found the man; he answers, "Yes, sir, but he is dead." Strange enough neither the life buoys nor planks thrown overboard were found.

Hauling the body on deck for examination the doctor pronounced the man quite dead; our boat is hoisted up, sail made, and we are soon once more bowling along before the wind. Keeping the body an hour longer it is once more cast overboard. I have thought it worth while to relate this incident as it seems strange and unaccountable to me why the body did not sink after being so far from the vessel, still stranger that we did not recover our life buoys, which can be seen at a considerable distance.

With steady winds and fine weather we are still steering to the westward to sight the coast of Africa, at a place called Cape St. Francis. As we approach the land we have a very heavy gale of adverse wind, but the emigrants are much more cheerful as the sickness on board is not nearly so deadly in its results as during the first part of the passage, and also because

we soon expect to be at the Cape. As we sight the desired point on the coast we have now been fifty days at sea from Calcutta, and fifty-eight deaths have occurred in that time. My readers will agree with me that this mortality among four hundred people is somewhat startling in such a short time ; still we have eight in the hospital, and may expect more deaths before reaching the West Indies. With a fine breeze we sail rapidly along the bold mountainous coast, and in fifty-two days from Calcutta anchor in Table Bay. Taking my boat I soon have the necessary provisions, pure fresh water, and medical comforts ordered for our now cheerful emigrants. Great praise, of course, was given to the Captain Sahib for having brought them here safely after such a terrible time of sickness and death on this long voyage. Our doctor now goes on shore and fills up his medicine chest, but shortly after, by reason of his own recklessness, leaves the ship. There are no medical men to be procured here, and some more of the emigrants succumb after a long illness. The total number of deaths on leaving the Cape for Demerara had reached sixty-four, and I am now in hopes that we shall have good winds, and fine weather during the rest of the voyage.

Getting my clearance papers, I am now obliged to proceed without a doctor, but still have confidence enough, as I have a fair knowledge of medicine, obtained before going to sea, and with the assistance of my trusty mates, who have behaved nobly during the whole of this disastrous voyage, I hope to make a speedy passage to the West Indies. The anchor is soon hove up, and with all sail set and a fine breeze, we leave the Cape, steering to the northward, and are soon out of sight of the African coast. As we sail along before the south-east trades to sight the island of St. Helena we have still quite a number of chronic cases of dysentery and diarrhoea, and there are still a few deaths now and then, but far from being so frequent as before we arrived at the Cape. In ten days from the Cape we pass the rock-bound Island of St. Helena, so well known as the place of exile of the Emperor Napoleon. Towering far above the level of the sea, we have sighted the island about noon, and at midnight are just passing the lights in Jamestown, the capital of the island.

Day after day passes in the same way, running before the trades to the equator, but keeping well to the westward for our destination, the monotony of the passage relieved by signalling occasionally passing

ships. A few deaths still happen, but we are now drawing near the end of the voyage and the emigrants are cheered at the prospect of getting on shore. In the evenings in fine weather the tom-toms or native drums are brought on deck, and groups are formed for dancing the *nautch* or native dance of India to the native pipe and tom-toms. The dance goes on, but the music is far from pleasant to our European ears. Other groups are seated on deck singing their most unmusical songs, while others are amusing themselves with swings rigged for that purpose, and all seem contented and happy. This terrible noise continues until eight bells are struck, and the watch is set for the night, when the decks are cleared and all the emigrants go down, without the least trouble, to their berths.

We are now steering to the westward, very much assisted by the equatorial current which is in our favour, and make excellent day's work, by observation at noon of each day. One woman who has been seven years in the West Indies before, and is now returning the second time, is constantly at me to know "when we see Demery sar?" "Very soon now, Banoo, in a day or two more." At length my chronometers being trustworthy, we sight the low level coast of British Guiana,

and steering for the lightship soon receive our pilot, who takes charge of the ship, and brings her safely to anchor in Demerara River in forty-three days from the Cape. As it is night time I retire to rest, much relieved both in mind and body. Our deaths up to this time amount to eighty-one, men, women and children, but in the morning one woman whom I had thought to send to the hospital in time, is found dead, and of course, even though I have brought her into port alive, we cannot be paid for her passage. In the morning the health-officer and harbour-master come on board, and our eight sick emigrants are carefully removed to the hospital on shore.

Arrangements are now made for the disembarking of the emigrants and their distribution among the various plantations in need of hands, but every care is taken not to part husband and wife, or children from parents, and to whatever plantation one is sent, the whole family must go. A well educated native of India, who speaks English fluently, comes on board with the sub-emigration agent, and the names of each emigrant is carefully taken, with age, village or district from which they came in India, and noted in their indentures to each plantation.

On the plantation there are comfortable huts for the people, and every plantation must have an hospital for the sick, which is under the direct supervision of the surgeon-general of the Colony. The emigrants are asked individually if they have any complaints to make against the master or officers of the ship before going on shore. But in our case they express themselves as very grateful for the kind treatment they have received from all the crew, as well as from myself and officers.

On leaving the ship I am somewhat astonished at men and women crying like children as they bid me farewell to go to their new homes. We soon have our ship clear of the emigrants, and I can assure my readers that I was not at all sorry when the whole were landed. The Court of Policy at the recommendation of the health-officer and emigration agent general, granted me, as well as my officers, handsome presents for the care and trouble we had taken with these poor people, during this voyage of sickness and death.

I may in another article describe the terms on which they are engaged and their treatment while in the colony.

A RACE WITH A FRENCH CLIPPER.

DURING my service in India, I commanded a fine clipper-built ship called the *Fiery Cross*, of about 1000 tons. Having a crew of sixty-four native Lascars and two European mates, I naturally took every pride in keeping her in the best of order. I was lying in the port of Muscat discharging my cargo of rice from Calcutta when I received an invitation to dine on board a man-of-war steamer then employed conveying the political resident, Colonel Pelly, up the Persian Gulf. Among the guests was a Frenchman who commanded a fast little barque called *La Phantome*, which had been in former days employed in the slave trade. Hearing the naval officers, whom I had known before, praising the fine, tidy, and clipper-like appearance of the *Fiery Cross*, he gave me a challenge that he would beat me in a distance of ninety miles to Ras-al-Had, a point on the Arabian coast (the bet was to be for a new hat) if I was ready in time. I at once

accepted the challenge, and hastening on with the discharge of my cargo, was soon ready for sea. *La Phantome* had sailed about six o'clock in the morning of the day on which the last of my cargo was discharged. My papers not being ready I hauled my ship out to the entrance of the port for a start as soon as I could obtain my port clearanee and other papers. Eight at night came but still no word of my papers, which were to be sent off by a Hindoo clerk. Lying down on a hen-coop I waited patiently the coming of my ship's papers, determined as soon as they came to give the Frenchman a heat, even though he had now fully twelve hours the start of me. The weather was excessively hot, but a fine breeze of fair wind was blowing, and my crew were all lying about the decks sound asleep. At length, about midnight, hearing the sound of oars, I started up, when the clerk presented me with my papers. Somewhat annoyed I remarked that the papers might have arrived long ago; he replied that he could not help it. Seeing me about to call all hands "up anchor," he said, "Surely, captain, you are not going to sea at this time of night." I answered him "Yes, certainly," in the Hindostanee language, "and you had better get into your boat, as I am about to fire a gun." "Ki ko tope mariga," he

asked me, "Why will you fire a gun?" "Why, to let your friend ashore know that I am about to start to beat that Frenchman." With a salaam he was soon in his boat, frightened nearly out of his wits about the firing of the gun. As soon as my Hindoo friend was in his boat I fired the gun, which at this still hour of the night, and among the perpendicular cliffs rising higher than the masts, must have been startling to the sleepers on shore.

Calling the native serang or boatswain, I ordered all hands to "up anchor." His pipe or whistle was soon heard shrill and loud over the decks, rousing up the sleepers with the long drawn call "all-hands-up-anchor." Our windlass being manned the order was given, "Top men, lay aloft and loose all sail, fore, main and mizzen-top-sails, top-gallant-sails and royals," and in less time than I have taken to write this, the *Fiery Cross* was standing out to sea under every stitch of sail, and steering along the coast in search of *La Phantome*. Our ropes being coiled down and decks cleared my crew again lay down, and all was quiet as if still at anchor. Giving orders to the officer of the watch to be called at daylight I again lay down on the hen-coop, somewhat fatigued, and was soon fast asleep. About five in the morning, as daylight came

in, I was called by the second mate, who told me that our friend *La Phantome* was close to leeward of us and trying to cross our bows. "So ho! my French friend, I see what you are at. Quarter master, keep her up, luff quickly now, and go a-head of that vessel." Answering her helm, like a beauty as she was, she came sweeping up to the wind, and proudly dashed a-head of the Frenchman who was now on deck, looking stupefied at the way in which we passed him. Hailing him in English I called out, "You can't sail with the *Fiery Cross*." Waving his hat he shouted out, "Bon voyage." We were soon on our course again for Ras-al-Had, and at noon the old slaver and clipper *La Phantome* was out of sight a-stern. I never saw my French friend the captain of *La Phantome* to receive my well won *nouveau chapeau*, new hat. Pursuing my voyage I arrived in Cochin on the Malabar coast in fifteen days, and taking in some more cargo was again on my way to Calcutta, which I reached in nine days more, my passage being made nearly in the same time as that of some of the fastest steamers trading on the coast.

À HURRICANE IN INDIA.

THE 4th day of October, 1864, had been excessively hot and sultry, and on the morning of the 5th rain began to fall heavily, still no one had any thoughts of a hurricane at this time of the year in Calcutta. The 5th of October is the first day of the heathen festival of Doorgah Poojah, and the fortnight succeeding is called the Doorgah Poojah holidays, during which there is nothing done even by the Europeans in Calcutta. I was invited to breakfast on board a ship lying close beside us, and taking my native boat was soon on board.

While at breakfast the wind began to rise, and on looking at the barometer we found that the mercury had fallen to rather an alarming extent. I at once called my Dhingy, or native boat, alongside, and was soon on board my own ship, the *Renown*, of 1100 tons; and it was well I went on board at once, for the wind increased so much in violence, with heavy rain,

and so suddenly, that it would have been impossible for me to have reached my ship in such a small boat with two natives. Secured with four massive chains, fore and aft, as all ships are in Calcutta river, I now made what preparations I could with my two European mates and seven native Lascars, and calmly waited the approach of the heaviest portion of the cyclone or hurricane, as I was now certain that there was a heavy storm rapidly coming on. In two hours from its commencement it blew most furiously, and at 11 A.M. it was blowing a perfect hurricane, and the ships beginning to break from their moorings, even with all the strength of their massive chains. At noon the hurricane was at its height, and a storm wave coming up the river with the change of tide, swept all before it. Large ships were seen running foul of each other, and the crashing of their hulls, together with the falling of yards and masts as they came in collision, was fearful to the looker-on, and as they fell in pieces over the decks were dangerous in the extreme to the crews; the terror stricken sailors not knowing where to run for shelter. Three ships outside of us went off in a cluster to the opposite shore and stuck fast on the bank of the river. My own ship had now parted three of her four moorings, but still held by the fourth.

I now made all ready to cut away the masts in order to save breaking the fourth chain; but my only chain held on bravely. Meantime I could see a barque moored in the middle of the river, slowly sinking at her anchors, the crew keeping up aloft as far as possible on her fast disappearing masts. But no assistance could be rendered by us; fortunately a powerful steam tug went to their assistance, taking off the crew before the vessel finally sunk.

The scene on shore at this time was indescribable, trees torn up by the roots and laid prostrate on the ground. Whole streets of native houses scattered before the hurricane like chaff before the wind. The barracks of Fort William, of good substantial stone and six stories in height, as I was told afterwards by the soldiers, rocked as if ready to fall at any moment, threatening to entomb in their fall the whole of the two regiments, native and European, stationed there. As the last of the ships near me broke from their moorings I gave orders to my chief officer to stand by the helm, and in case our last chain gave way to put the helm hard-a-port, and keep us on the Calcutta side of the river, as there were too many ships drifting up as well as across the river. At the last and heaviest burst of the hurricane my orders to the chief officer were:

“hard-a-port, and keep her on the Calcutta side.” She answered her helm in a moment, and slackened the remaining chain so much as to save the ship as well as to give me no further anxiety. We could now look round as we lay quietly by the one chain at the surrounding wrecks, as the hurricane still raged with unabated fury. From my ship I could see fine, noble-looking, first-class ships with not a single mast above the decks; church steeples blown down and the banks of the river on both sides a perfect scene of desolation, strewed with the *débris* of the now stranded ships and steamers, native boatmen throwing themselves into the river and swimming for their lives.

The whole of this happened in but a few hours, and about five o'clock in the evening the storm had passed over Calcutta, like the destroying angel, leaving behind it such a scene of desolation as is seldom seen in that part of the world; forcibly reminding the most careless and reckless that verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth. About six o'clock in the evening it was perfectly calm, as if no storm had been there, and I thought of going to sleep; but aware that these cyclones or revolving storms are very often liable to come back or recurve over the same path in a very few hours, I waited with intense anxiety for the following day. My

mate, 2nd mate, and Lascars by this time thoroughly fatigued, were now sound asleep as night came on. At length after a long and wearisome night, daylight came, and for a space of upwards of three miles, where some hundreds of first class ships and steamers had been moored the day previous, scarcely one remained at the moorings, but all were more or less damaged, and some lay high and dry far from the river's edge, the river had risen so high during the storm. Many had not a single stick standing above the deck, but were clean swept by the mere strength and fury of the storm. The ship *Ali* foundered down the river with 400 coolies on board, captain, mates, pilot, crew and passengers being all lost. Many hundreds of sailors were left ashore, their ships being abandoned and crews thrown on their own resources, but the benevolent public of Calcutta were soon actively engaged in getting up subscriptions for both Europeans and natives who had suffered by the storm. Thousands of natives were afterwards found in the rice fields who were drowned by the storm wave as it swept along the low land on both sides of the river, with resistless impetus carrying all before it. The extent of country laid waste below Calcutta was incalculable, and towards the head of the Bay of Bengal, one beautiful new steamer called the

Persian was lost, all the passengers and crew going down with her, saving two Lascars, who escaped by clinging to some of the wreck floating round, and were picked up when the storm passed over.

A very short distance down the bay from where the hurricane raged with such fury, many ships and steamers felt the sea as it rolled down from the storm itself, but none of those vessels had felt the storm at all, the whole extent of the Cyclone in its path from N. E. to S. W. not exceeding four hundred miles. Although six years have now elapsed, Calcutta or the City of Palaces, as it is called, will retain for years to come traces of the ravages and destruction caused by the hurricane of 1864.

A VISIT TO THE SULTAN OF MUSCAT.

As we entered the port of Muscat my two twelve pounders were ready to fire a salute in honour of his highness the Imaum or Sultan, and as we came to anchor in beautiful style, clewing up and furling our three royals, top-gallant-sails and topsails at the same time, no one would have imagined that the *Fiery Cross* was a merchant ship. My well trained crew of sixty-four native Lascars of India knew their stations and duties as well as the crew of many an English sloop of war. As soon as the anchor was dropped from the bows, our two guns, well served by the quarter-masters and second mate, fired eleven guns as we kept the pure red flag of the Sultan flying at our mast-head.

The echo of our guns as they reverberated from rock to rock and were heard faintly for some seconds far in the distance, had scarcely died away, when one of the forts close to the beach answered with thirteen

guns to our national flag at the peak, which was dipped in graceful acknowledgment as the last gun was fired. As I landed in my gig I was met by one of the Sultan's Arab captains of his men-of-war, who thanked me in the name of his Highness for the salute fired in honour of his flag with so much effect and precision. Hastening to my agents, who were Hindoos of the Banian caste, I found that some of the Arab ships, which had sailed from Calcutta eight days before me, had not yet arrived.

The harbour is entered between two ridges of rocks, and surrounded, except at the entrance, by the same, not being more than a good English mile in circumference ; consequently ships of war, as well as merchant ships and steamers, are completely sheltered, except from the north-west winds, which at times blow strong into the harbour. Forts bearing guns of heavy calibre are placed along the edge of the beach and far up on the precipitous heights, so that the place would be rendered almost as impregnable as Gibraltar itself if armed and manned as that celebrated fortress is. But these forts are evidently falling to pieces from want of repair, and one would imagine that it is dangerous to fire heavy pieces of artillery from their almost crumbling ruins.

Proceeding with the discharge of our cargo of rice, I am invited to an interview with the Sultan, who seems to have taken a liking to the ship, doubtless partly through my native agents, who have added considerably to his revenue, by the importation of this cargo, and partly by our salute to his flag. I accordingly accepted the invitation, and a day being appointed for the interview through Dr. Rozario of the British Consulate, who speaks Arabic like a native, I am ready to accompany him to the palace of the Sultan at the appointed time, but though the day is excessively hot I am obliged to dress in a suit of black cloth as carefully and neatly as if preparing for one of the Queen of England's levees.

These Arab chiefs are so well accustomed to the visits of officers of English men-of-war that they are somewhat punctilious in the matter of dress, and can very well understand the difference between an officer in her Majesty's Navy and a slovenly dressed master of a merchant-man. The gig is piped away by our Serang in good English—"Away gig," and I am soon rowed ashore by my well dressed boat's crew of Lascars, accompanied by the Doctor.

As we enter the gateway of the Sultan's palace we find several fierce-looking Beloochee sentries on guard,

who are armed with lances and wearing bucklers of well tanned hides on the left arm; over the archway I hear some loud laughing and am well aware that there are female voices overhead. Somewhat confused I ask my friend "the Doctor" what it means. "Oh! it is only some of the Sultan's favourite wives laughing at your uncomfortable rig in such weather as this."

We are soon in the audience chamber of the Sultan, who rises and, bowing politely, begs us in Arabic to be seated. The chamber itself is very plainly furnished, and the windows look out towards the entrance of the harbour. Surrounded by his chiefs, prominent among whom is the governor of Muscat, the Sultan looks the *beau ideal* of a well cultivated Arab, and we are soon at home in his presence. A man of about forty-five years of age, with a frank, open countenance, and decidedly fair complexioned, he looks exceedingly well in his white flowing robes and magnificent turban. Sharp intelligent eyes and a long well-trained black beard flowing down on his breast complete the picture I have tried to sketch. No jewellery save a beautiful diamond ring on the little finger of the left hand, adorns his person. His chiefs, to the number of twelve or fourteen, are dressed very much like himself, and are armed with

a short sword, which they lean upon rather than wear ; but the Sultan wears no arms of any kind that we can see. The Sultan began the conversation by again thanking me for the salute to his flag, saying that he did not expect a salute from a merchant ship. Remark- ing to him, through my friend the doctor, that it would be a good thing to have a light-house for the guid- ance of ships and steamers into the harbour on one of the points at the entrance, he laughingly replied, “ Very true, captain, but what can you expect from Arabs ? ” I scarcely knew how to reply to this evasive answer ; but as the conversation proceeded I asked him to come on board and see the ship. He told me in reply that he was about to proceed up the Persian Gulf in one of his well-appointed ships of war to bring some of his rebellious Arab chiefs to reason who refused or neglected to pay him the annual tribute due to him for his protection, and could not spare time. Asking to be allowed to visit his forts high up on the rocks, he answered me, “ Oh yes, and I shall send a guide with you ; you will find guns there over two hundred years old, when the place belonged to the Portuguese.” As his Highness has a band of twenty performers who have but little to do, he tendered me their use on board the ship any time I chose, which I very willingly accepted.

The interview being nearly at an end we were about to go, when the Sultan, who has quite a number of beautiful Arab horses always ready, offered me the use of any of them when I chose to take a ride into the interior of the country, where there are some hot wells often visited by masters of ships and officers of men-of-war. Thanking him, we now prepared to leave the palace, his chiefs, as well as the governor of Muscat, rising and politely bowing to us as we left the audience chamber.

On coming through the gateway, my ears were again assailed by loud talking and laughing from the same place overhead, and taking a fair look upwards, I saw quite a number of dark, mischievous-looking eyes, peering through the barred windows of the harem, for be it known to my readers the Sultan has over forty wives, some of whom accompany him on his expeditions, strictly guarded, on board ship, while the remainder are left on shore equally as well guarded by the Beloochee sentries or by Nubian eunuchs.

The following evening was appointed to receive the band of the Sultan on board the ship, and my Portuguese cooks and servants were delighted at the prospect of seeing their countrymen on board the "Fiery Cross," for his band is composed exclusively of Portu-

guese, who have been born in Goa, some distance from Bombay, and have been trained musicians in the Indian army.

Hen-coops were now arranged on the quarter deck for music stands and all the ship's lamps trimmed for the occasion ; coffee and other refreshments being made ready for their use. At the appointed time the pinnace is sent on shore for the band. Drums, fifes, and brass instruments are brought up the gangway, but it takes two trips to bring off the whole band with music books, &c.

At 8 P. M. the concert began, the whole of the band being dressed in the red uniform of the British Army ; some, indeed, wearing the medals issued to the army at the end of the terrible mutiny in India, and who had seen service in Lucknow, Cawnpore, and other parts of India. Waltzes, polkas, and even jigs and horn-pipes were played, very correctly, and the quick and slow marches so well known in the army were played with remarkable care and in *thorough good time*. The music, at a short distance from the ship on this quiet evening, sounds very pleasantly, the more especially as there is a sort of outlet for the sound through the narrow entrance of the harbour over the sea beyond, otherwise the sound of the

instruments in this confined little harbour would be more disorderly.

At 11 P. M. the band of his Highness the Sultan were sent on shore in the pinnace after a very pleasant evening, and each with a small present; expressing themselves as much gratified at their kind treatment on board the "Fiery Cross." As they are seldom on board ship, this was a pleasant change to them.

On the following morning I determined to avail myself of the offer of a horse to go to the hot wells already mentioned. On landing I found a beautiful Arab horse ready saddled and in charge of one of the Sultan's servants for my use. I could not help taking notice of the mountings on the bridle and saddle, massive gold, with the initials V. R. marked on them, evidently a present from Queen Victoria.

Sailors, as a rule, are but poor horsemen, but in this case there was no mistake about the truth of the rule, for no sooner had I mounted than my Arab steed, after making a decent attempt to start, and getting along pretty well for a short distance, soon came to a dead stop, and all my exertions to make him go on were of little use: move he would not. Some Arabs looking on made him start again, but after accomplishing a short distance, again he came to a dead halt. Somewhat annoyed and

beginning to look supremely ridiculous I now dismounted, when an old bare-footed Arab said he would show me how to ride. Mounting, he struck his bare heels into the horse, when he was off like the wind. Wheeling him round quick as lightning he came dashing back to where I stood, somewhat mortified at being foiled in my ride to the wells by the obstinate brute, who evidently knew the difference between the old Arab's horsemanship and my own.

I now gave up the thoughts of horsemanship for that day, and having manned the ship's gig, accompanied by an Indian navy officer, we started to visit a place called Muttra, about seven miles off. The day was beautiful for our excursion, and the sea as smooth as glass. We soon were on our way along the rock-bound beach, where a great number of fishermen were plying their vocations with the seine as well as the fishing line, and the take of various kinds of fish well repays the Arabs engaged in this occupation along the coast. There is no want of excellent salt in the dominions of the Sultan for curing the fish, and large shipments of salted fish are made to the Mauritius and other places in the Indian Ocean. As we pull along, there is nothing to be seen but rocks, rocks, rocks, with here and there little sandy nooks or beaches, where boats can land. We soon

arrived at Muttra, and grounding our boat on the sandy beach we are carried on shore by our trusty Lascars without wetting our feet.

On landing we were surrounded by quite a number of Arab women, boys and girls, who did not seem at all daunted as they followed us up to the town, keeping up a constant clatter in Arabic. These women were entirely different from most of the Arab women I had ever seen before, for with rare exceptions they kept themselves closely veiled. As we walked towards the town a short distance from the beach, everything had an old dilapidated appearance. The houses were, for the most part, built of mud, and were decidedly crazy looking tenements.

Walking through the bazaar we found various kinds of cereals for sale in the different stalls, but no fruit except the date. Everything looked so thoroughly worn out and old, that we soon took our departure back for Muscat, surrounded as before with Arab women, little boys and girls, clad in all sorts of nondescript garments. In fact everything wore an air of extreme poverty, whether as respects the people themselves, the town or its surroundings.

Our boat was soon launched and we were once more on our way back to the ship. My friend Lieutenant

R., of the Indian navy, enjoyed the trip very much, as he had been for some time an invalid at the residence of the political resident. The salt we were to take on board was soon shipped and we were ready to take our departure for Calcutta. A most important revenue is derived from the export of salt, the staple product among the barren rocks in the vicinity of the city of Muscat, and a larger revenue is derived from its import into India, so enhancing the price there, that it is weighed like gold dust and sent far up into the interior in covered boats. Those who grumble at the light duty imposed on the article in this country may be thankful that they are not residents of the interior of India. We had on board some of the best native salt imported into Calcutta, besides quite a large quantity of rock salt.

We also shipped quite a number of cases of rose-water, besides bales of dried roses, imported into Muscat, from Shiraz in Persia. Bidding adieu to the dominions of his Highness the Sultan, we are soon under sail on our return voyage to Calcutta, well satisfied with the kindly treatment we had received at the hands of the Sultan and his Arab subjects.

Before I left India this Sultan was killed by his own nephew in 1867, in the same audience chamber in

which we had met him, in order to obtain the *nuzzud* or throne of his uncle. A war ensued between the followers of the murdered Sultan and those of his nephew, which was ended by the interference of the Bombay Government, which finally recognized the nephew.

ELEPHANTS IN INDIA: THEIR VALUE AND SAGACITY.

To many who have not seen much of elephants beyond seeing them attached to some caravan or travelling circus, the following stories of their strength, as well as sagacity, will, I am sure, be interesting. Calling at a port named Alipee on the Malabar coast for some cargo to take to Calcutta, I was amused and deeply interested on landing, to find quite a number of elephants occupied in piling up heavy logs of teak timber. Seeing me intently watching them, one of the mahouts or drivers came up to me, and making his elephant kneel, asked me for "*Backsheesh, Sahib,*" that is to say "Give me a present, sir." Not caring to be within reach of the animal's trunk, I handed a two anna piece of silver, about the size of five cents, to a native standing near, who placed it in his palm; the elephant, stretching out his trunk, at once picked it up and passed it to the mahout or driver.

Rising, he made one more salaam, and with a grunt of satisfaction resumed his labour of piling logs of timber. The elephants have each a piece of rope, which they carry on the trunk ; a running noose like a lasso being at one end. This noose the elephant passes carefully round the heavy log of timber, then by the directions of his mahout he drags it along the ground until he reaches the pile ; then again carefully unloosing the rope he goes on with his task of pushing the logs on to the pile by the mere strength of his fore-legs.

As I stood watching these animals, surprised, amused and deeply interested, I noticed one particularly large elephant with half of his tusks sawn off, and enquired the reason of one of the natives standing near who spoke a little English. He answered me, " He very bad fellow that, sar, he kill plenty of driver, sar. Rajah send him here, make work for punishment." I found that this had been a favourite elephant of the Rajah, or native prince of Travancore, but who had killed a number of his drivers for some fancied or real ill-treatment he had received at their hands. The Rajah at length, seriously annoyed, gave orders to have his tusks sawn half off, and in charge of twelve natives he was sent up to Alipee, loaded with chains like any other great criminal, to hard labour with the other working elephants.

These working elephants are exceedingly valuable in India, and a good one cannot be obtained under 5,000 rupees, or £500 sterling. In Burmah I have often watched them as they loaded large boats in the muddy river at Rangoon, carrying heavy teak-wood planks from three to five inches thick, nicely balanced on their huge tusks, walking in to where the boat was moored, and stowing the planks as carefully as any two men could have done. Their drivers are seated well forward on the back, and have an ugly-looking goad, which they keep constantly digging into the poor animals, as they shout out their orders in Hindostanee or Burmese, which the elephants seem to understand perfectly. But there are times when these elephants, goaded to perfect fury, will turn on their drivers, and seizing them with their trunks dash them on the ground and trample them to pieces. There is a story, well known in Burmah, where quite a number of elephants had been employed piling timber; their drivers had kept them without their dinners and were urging them to do more work after the usual time. At length their ferocity broke out, and each one seizing his driver, he was soon a mangled and scarcely recognizable mass of humanity under the huge feet of the elephants. After killing their drivers they then pro-

ceeded, as if they were human in their rage, and tore down the timber, scattering it in all directions, thus showing their ferocity as well as sagacity.

Before I left India the expedition for the release of the Abyssinian captives was decided upon, and Sir Robert Napier, to whom the whole of the preparations were confided by the Government of India, saw with a great deal of prudence and forethought that elephants would be an invaluable accessory to his small and well appointed army. There were quite a number attached to the expedition, and their duties were to carry twelve pounder brass guns into the almost inaccessible fastnesses of the Emperor Theodore. On the march from the sea coast to the interior, one brass twelve-pounder was slung between two elephants, so that it did not impede their movements, and in this way, after a long and tedious march from the sea coast, the elephants doing their share of the work in the conveyance of the guns, with patience and quiet obedience, the army reached the stronghold of Theodore.

The brass twelve-pounders thus strangely conveyed by the elephants were soon in position, and dealing death and destruction into the very heart of the citadel of Magdala ; so that the released captives were in a great measure indebted to the elephants employed in

the expedition for their speedy release, unharmed, although suffering much from their long and cruel confinement by the half savage Emperor Theodore. I have often seen Sir Robert Napier in Calcutta when he was military member in the Governor General's council, and no one would imagine in the quiet, plain-looking man dressed in civilian's clothes, as I always saw him, that this was to be the leader of the Abyssinian expedition, where so much care, prudence and forethought was necessary, in order to accomplish the object in view, fraught as it was with so much danger to the captives, and requiring a very great deal of tact in its management.

There are other instances of the great value of elephants with an army in the east in their great strength and sagacity in the placing of heavy guns as well as in the conveyance of the baggage of an army. The 72nd regiment of Highlanders had an elephant which took his place with the band on parade and always marched at the head of the regiment when on the route in India from one station to another. In the shipping of elephants they are docile and impassive to a remarkable degree, trusting very much to their native mahouts or drivers, and with the exception of some loud trumpeting as they are hoisted on board, they are

far more docile than even Arabian horses. Where any degree of kindness is shewn to tame elephants they are never revengeful, but cruelty or ill-usage of any kind is never forgotten by them.

“ THE USE OF MARRYATT'S CODE OF SIGNALS AT SEA.”

To the landsman who is in constant contact with his fellow-man it will be interesting to know that we who are often for weeks and months confined on board ship at sea, can communicate easily with passing ships on the lonely waste of waters, both asking questions and receiving answers as well as if by word of mouth. This is done by means of flags, and when the colours and numbers of the different flags are known it is very amusing and instructive, and between vessels of about equal speed bound the same way it often relieves the tedious monotony of a long voyage. The flags are numbered from one to the *eipher* (figure 0). For instance, number one is a square white flag with a blue square in the centre, number two is square, and blue, white and blue longitudinally, number three is a square flag, one half white and the other red; number four is an oblong shaped flag, blue ground with a

white cross, and so on. Four of these flags are hoisted in line and reading from the upper flag downwards, say 4,9,1,0, on looking at the signal book the question is found to be "what ship is that?" Four flags are hoisted in reply with a distinguishing flag above, say, first distinguishing pennant and 4,6,2,8, upon again referring to the book we find her name to be the "Nestorian." "Where are you from and where bound to?" Answered with a red evous flag above the four numbers. "What is your Longitude?" Answered in degrees and minutes with a small flag between the degrees and minutes. "Can you spare me any provisions; my crew are sick?" and hundreds of other questions and answers by the mere transposition of the ten flags. Three years ago, while on a passage from Marseilles to New York, I had a very dull sailing ship, and consequently a very long and tedious passage: my provisions ran short, and I was several times supplied from other ships by making use of these signals, but ludicrous mistakes are often made by hoisting the wrong flags in reply, by not understanding their use properly.

On a passage home from the Brazils to Liverpool some years ago a French barque came up to me near the Western Islands and went quickly past. About

a week afterwards, we came up with her again, and on hoisting up 4,9,1,0, "what ship is that?" he hoisted up four flags in reply, and on looking in the book we found the answer was "I am in a sinking state." I then bore away to his assistance, but coming within hail he called out in good English, "I will come on board." Lowering his boat away he was soon on board, when pointing out to him the answer corresponding to his four flags still flying, it turned out that he had omitted to hoist the distinguishing pennant over the number, which would have given his ship's name. We had a good laugh over the matter, and he then invited me on board to dinner; but the wind coming in our favour I soon afterwards returned on board my own ship and we again parted company, he for France and I for England. Men-of war have their own flags entirely different from those of merchantmen, but merchantmen in time of war when sailing under convoy of ships of war always understand the private signals of the men-of-war. Such are the various uses to which these flags may be put in signalling at sea.

A VOYAGE UP THE PERSIAN GULF.

DURING the period of the north-east monsoon in India the sky is a beautiful clear blue, and for weeks at a time there is hardly a cloud to be seen. At night there is an occasional strong breeze, making the air cool and agreeable, and relieving the heat of the day in a great measure. The north-east monsoon commences about the beginning of October, and continues till the latter end of April, or beginning of May, during which time the weather continues cool and agreeable. The south-west monsoon now begins with what is called the rainy season, the rain pouring down for days together, when the sun bursts forth with a suffocating, unhealthy heat, causing a considerable amount of sickness, engendering cholera, &c.

It was in the month of March, 1863, that the steamer of which I was then chief officer was chartered to convey the Begum of Oude, with her suite, to Bussorah, up the River Euphrates. This lady is pensioned very lib-

erally by the British Government in consideration of the province of Oude being now annexed to the British Indian Empire. She was a strict Mahometan, and was then about to proceed with her followers on a pilgrimage to the burial place of the prophet, a place called Medina. Our cabins were given up, as besides the saloon which she was to occupy with her ladies, she had also to find places for her men and women servants. The company paid our captain, as well as the officers and engineers, very handsomely for the temporary inconvenience, as we all had to shift as well as we could in the steerage.

Having prepared for the reception of Her Highness, as she is called by courtesy, we waited her arrival on board with her suite, and at daylight of the following morning, three large covered boats were seen pulling towards the steamer, each being accompanied by a guard of *European Bombay Police*, and as we lowered a chair well slung into the first boat, on coming alongside, a muffled form tripped hastily from the cabin of the boat to the chair, and her vizier, assisted by the captain, wrapped two, three, four distinct wrappings round Her Highness, chair and all, until we on deck might have imagined that we were about to hoist in a bundle of old rags, instead of an Indian Princess. When all

was ready, the word was given by me to my native Serang of the Lascars, "hoist away"; his pipe was then heard loud and shrill over the decks as we hoisted up and safely lowered Her Highness of Oude on the quarter-deck. After being assisted by the vizier again to disengage herself from her wrappings, she walked quickly into the saloon, through a passage of raised screens, carried by her men-servants, for the purpose of concealing her from our sacrilegious view.

One after the other of her ladies were hoisted up in the same mysterious way, and safely landed on our quarter-deck. Having embarked mails, passengers, and a large quantity of treasure, we were soon under way for Kurrachee, our first port of call. And what a motley crowd we had! Besides the Begum and her suite, there were Turks, Arabs, Jews, and Armenians, all jabbering, talking, and gesticulating in their different languages. I could hardly move along the decks for the baggage and crowd of deck passengers. We left our pilot at the outer lightship, about five in the evening. The water was so far, very smooth, but as we proceeded under a full head of steam, the breeze freshened as usual at night, and being directly against us as we proceeded to the northward, the sea began to break on board our deep-loaded steamer, saturating

and drenching with salt water all and sundry of our unlucky deck passengers with their baggage. As chief officer, my watch was from four to eight in the morning, and from four to eight in the evening, the second and third officers having their own four hours each on the bridge. About six in the evening, while on watch, my attention was suddenly called to a burst of flame nearly under the bridge where I was walking. Rushing down on deck, I found that some of Her Highness's stupid native cooks had nearly set fire to the steamer. With a few buckets of water the fire was soon extinguished, and I resumed my watch on the bridge. I had again, however, to leave my station to attend to some Jewish women, who were wailing piteously, as each sea dashed on board, drenching them to the skin, and saturating their baggage. Having seen them to drier places in the 'tween decks, I resumed my watch until relieved by the second officer at eight o'clock.

Daylight came in about five in the morning, as I was again walking the bridge on my watch; but the weather was now finer, the water being as smooth as glass, and wind light or nearly a calm:—Thus we steamed rapidly along on our course to the northward. Diu Head was first seen on our right hand, on which

we could see a very large Hindoo temple. It was almost covered with flags and streamers of all kinds, flying from its many towers, domes and minarets; but the building itself seemed somewhat dilapidated, and its style of architecture seemed to me heavy and unattractive, being more like a huge penitentiary than a place of worship. As we sailed along the coast the shore looked bare and sandy, with scarcely any vegetation that we could see from the steamer. Evening came on,—and the sunset in these latitudes is exceedingly beautiful, for the sun sets like an immense globe of gold as it casts its radiance and brightness on the surrounding waste of calm and still sea and sky, tinging the whole with inexpressible beauty as it sinks rapidly and majestically below the western horizon.

Her Highness the Begum kept closely secluded in the saloon with her lady attendants, and their only male attendants, so far as we could see, were her vizier and a Nubian eunuch of great stature, with a skin as black as ebony. His shrill treble voice at first startles the listener, coming from such a powerful looking negro. Our devout Arabs, as well as our Persian passengers, pray to Allah five times a day. The Hindoos on board from the sacred Ganges were constantly muttering prayers from the sacred vedras

or shastres they had with them. The Jews and Armenians appeared to be the only passengers we had who were totally indifferent as the time passed on board. These Arabs were dressed in long camels hair cloaks, and with their turbans trimmed with yellow braid; they had quite a picturesque appearance as they assembled in a row on the long poop-deck for prayer.

Facing as near as they knew towards Mecca, the birthplace of the Prophet, they knelt with their foreheads touching the deck, while one who was their leader or took the lead, called out in a long drawling tone "Allah-la-hilla-lah—there is no God but God and Allah is his prophet." They would continue thus for some time in the morning during my watch, until one of their own cooks came round with coffee served out in the smallest of pewter cups, and of course the Burra Malam Sahib or chief officer was obliged to take a cup, for I happened to be somewhat of a favourite with our Arabs as well as the other passengers on board. The fragrance of the coffee tempted me to drink more than one cup, although I fancied it was rather bitter without the sugar. Then bringing out their long Narghillies they continued smoking until again called to prayer in the forenoon.

The dress of the Hindoos was a long pure white robe with a red turban, denoting that they belonged to the Banian caste of Hindoos, their foreheads having certain marks of chalk to distinguish them from other Hindoo castes. The Armenians and Persians were dressed in dark cloaks, with peculiarly shaped hats of dressed sheep or goatskin. The Jews wore long white robes also, but with red skull caps and a long blue silk tassel : their peculiar cast of countenance at once telling that they were Jews. The food used by all of our deck passengers was of the most simple kind, being for the most part, rice, dried fish and fruits, such as dates, raisins, &c., their only drink being coffee or water, nothing in the shape of strong food or liquors being used by any that I could see.

We now made rapid progress towards Kurrachee, as the water continued smooth and weather remarkably fine. The mountains now began to appear as we approached our port, and as they appeared from the vessel, rose far away in the interior, many thousands of feet above the level of the sea. The sea-gull, too, and pelican were seen in close proximity to each other, rising high above the surface of the calm and unruffled sea, and making a sudden swoop straight downwards were seen rising as suddenly again high

in the air, but invariably with a fish in their talons or beaks, they are so sure and unerring in their aim, as they circled round and round our rapidly advancing vessel in their swift and eccentric flight, as if she had been at anchor. On the second day out from Bombay we sighted the high land above Kurrachee, having received our pilot off Manora Point, where there is a lighthouse. Our steamer under his charge was soon anchored inside the bar.

Kurrachee is the principal sea-port in the province of Scinde, and is situated in the north-west of India. A large portion of cotton, the staple produce of the province, is shipped from here to Bombay, the balance, as the harbour is now well known, being shipped direct to England. There is a bar of sand as you approach the port, but ships drawing eighteen feet can easily get inside, where they are land-locked on all sides, and are as secure as in a dry dock.

We landed quite a number of our passengers here, besides the mails, and also a large quantity of specie for the payment of the troops in Kurrachee and other places round. This specie and other treasure under my charge was carefully slung in strong nets made for the purpose, with buoys attached to each

net, and carefully lowered into the boats alongside, the buoys being a precautionary measure in case the boxes of treasure should fall overboard. A guard of Sepoys or native troops was in attendance alongside with muskets and fixed bayonets, to take the government treasure in charge and up to the paymaster's office at the camp or head-quarters in Kurrachee.

Our Indian Princess and her ladies still kept closely secluded in the cabin, but as my treasure room was below their rooms I was obliged to pass through the saloon when about to land treasure at the different ports. On these occasions I had to give notice to the Begum's vizier that we were about to take treasure up, when the Begum and her ladies at once retired to their various state-rooms. I could, however, see many dark eyes peering out of slightly-opened doors, and hear some rather loud tittering among her Highness's ladies as I was engaged with some of the quarter-masters in getting the treasure on deck for landing. The vizier landed here on some business, and we waited a short time for him, as he had one of our boats on shore. He was soon on board and presented the boats crew with a gold mohur, or sixteen rupees, say (eight dollars of

Canadian money.) Our anchor was then hove up, and under charge of the pilot, the "Coringa" steamed out of the port of Kurrachee for our next port, Muscat.

Our pilot discharged, we proceeded on our voyage, the weather still keeping fine, and water quite smooth. Our course was now about due west along the coast of Beloochistan. This coast appeared from the steamer rather wild and rugged, the mountains in the interior high and covered with jungle, said to be the retreat of the ferocious tiger and jaguar! The Beloochees are a wild and warlike people, many of them being in the service of the Sultan of Muscat, who prized them very much when I was there afterwards. They make excellent soldiers in the Indian army, when disciplined and mixed with the well-trained Sepoys of Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

After two days steaming with beautiful clear weather we approached the dominions of the Sultan of Muscat, and what a wild, barren-like country! Rocks towering above rocks, rising abruptly and perpendicularly, thousands of feet above the level of the sea. One would imagine that the Sultan derived but a poor revenue from such a wild country. The thought struck me, too, that this would be a terrible coast for any ship

to be caught on in a gale of wind: a lee-shore here would be something terrible to contemplate, and would involve the certain destruction of the ship and all hands on board, as there would be no possibility of rescue from the shore and its perpendicular cliffs, still less from the sea. There are no light-houses on this coast, and we had to be more than usually careful in our navigation, at night time especially.

We soon entered the port of Muscat (described elsewhere in these anecdotes) and anchored a short distance from the Sultan's palace and stables. Quite a number of our passengers landed here, and we had our decks crowded with all kinds of rough-looking Arabs wearing crooked and somewhat dangerous looking knives openly in their belts. But as a precautionary measure we took charge of all our passengers' arms before leaving Bombay, and only delivered them up as they landed, or it might have been that a quarrel arising among our deck passengers these firearms, &c., would have been too freely used. Once more weighing anchor we resumed our route up the Persian Gulf, the weather still continuing fine. Various small islands and rocks were passed as we rapidly proceeded, but scarcely any cultivation was to be seen. Some of these islands are governed by a Sheik or Arab chief,

who pays a certain amount of annual tribute to the Sultan of Muscat for his protection.

In two days more we reached Bunder Abbas, a small unimportant place on the Persian side of the gulf, and having landed mails, a few passengers and a small quantity of treasures, we were once more on our way for Lingeh, on the Arabian side, also a place of but small importance. The land we had seen on both sides was very rugged, and far from being rich in its aspect. Still our illustrious Indian Princess kept closely secluded in the saloon with her ladies; her vizier, who spoke good Hindostanee, sometimes asking us questions as to how long we expected to be on the passage, &c. Steaming across to the Arabian side of the gulf, we now called at a small island called Bassadore, but as we were entering our steamer ran hard and fast on a ridge of sand lying a little distance off the shore, our commander having made a small mistake in his calculations as to its distance off. With a considerable amount of backing astern and carrying out kedge anchors we hove her off, and under the pilotage of a gunner's mate belonging to a gun boat on this station, we reached our port in safety, where we landed some naval stores.

Bassadore is a small island which belongs to the British Government, and is held as a naval station for

ships of war on service up the Persian Gulf, stores of all kinds being kept here for their use ; there is but little cultivation to be seen here, but it is important as a port for coaling steamers, bound up or down the gulf. We soon completed our coaling and proceeded on our route to Bushire, on the Persian side of the gulf. This port was reached in about twenty-four hours' steaming, and here we parted with quite a number of our jolly Arab merchants, expressions of regret being mutual at parting so soon. One of them made me a present of a splendid camel's hair cloak, trimmed with yellow braid, at parting, but my seamp of a servant, Abdul, found means of disposing of it for a trifling sum before we returned to Bombay.

Bushire is quite an important sea-port in Persia, and was soon captured by General Sir Henry Havelock, who was placed in command of the Persian expedition with his small army, in 1857. Prominent among the regiments was the 78th Highlanders, whose gallant deeds, both there and at Lucknow and Cawnpore in the Indian mutiny, must be familiar to the readers of these anecdotes. It is rather a bad place for ships to anchor at, with a gale of wind blowing, and we were obliged to keep steam up the whole time. Its appearance from our steamer was not very attractive,

as the forts and public buildings appeared in an old and dilapidated condition. Our steamer was once more under way, but this time under the charge of an intelligent Arab pilot, whose duties were to take the steamer up the Euphrates, and to Bussorah, our last port. He gave his orders to "port or starboard," in unmistakable *English*, and guided us through the buoys placed for our use by English men-of-war, with great care and safety. As we passed on, the weather still kept fine, and the water smooth. Buoy after buoy being seen on both sides on our route, so careful had our survey ships been in placing them.

We now entered the River Euphrates, which is somewhat wide at its entrance, and its current rapid, and as we proceeded there was nothing very remarkable either on the Turkish or the Persian side of the river; there were, however, here and there to be seen some well cultivated spots, the land being low and exceedingly fertile in appearance. We soon came to a place called Mahommerah, also captured by the gallant Havelock, with his small army. As we steamed rapidly along, the river became narrower, until at length we reached Bussorah, our last port on the voyage.

Here all our passengers had to leave, some for Bagdad, and some for Bussorah. Her Highness, the Begum, made each of us, captain, officers and engineers, a present of a small bag of krons, a Turkish coin, with sundry marks on each in *Arabic* or *Turkish*. She, at the same time, conveyed to us her thanks, through the vizier, for the great care we had taken of her august person, ladies and suite. We gladly received her acknowledgments with many thanks, and at the same time anticipated a return to our rooms, &c., with much satisfaction.

The disembarkation took place very much in the same mysterious way as the embarkation; a small Turkish steamer came alongside to convey her Highness to Bagdad, the same screen used in Bombay was again raised by the men-servants, while she and her ladies tripped as hastily and as closely veiled on board the steamer mentioned. As chief officer, I tried hard to get a glimpse of Her Highness, seeing that I had to superintend the arrangements for disembarking, but my old commander told me quietly, "it is no use C., you had better keep back." We soon prepared for our return to Bombay, and shipped quite a number of beautiful Arab horses, besides mails, passengers and treasure.

An Indian Nabob, with his three wives, returned with us to Bombay, but was obliged to pawn his wives' jewels, which we kept in our iron safe on board, like many others on those pilgrimages to Medina and Mecca, being too lavish with their expenditure on these voyages up the Persian Gulf and to the shrine of Mahomet.

A SHIPWRECK.

To the readers of the seaneecdotes, whether landmen or seamen like myself, the word "shipwreck" has something very ominous in its meaning, whether the shipwreck happens at sea by fire, by foundering, or by being suddenly cast on a lee-shore. In these days of steam navigation, it is very rarely that we hear of steamers being cast on a lee-shore, although there are exceptions, as in the case of the "Royal Charter," so suddenly lost after a most prosperous voyage from Australia, and almost in the immediate neighbourhood of Liverpool, her port of arrival. Steamships engaged in the passenger trade can scarcely ever be caught on a lee-shore, for the captains of steamships, such as those of the Allan Line, Cunard, or other trans-Atlantic steamers can always avoid a lee-shore, in good time, too, as they have an unlimited amount of steam power to take them clear in case of a gale coming on in near proximity to land.

The only danger to be for the most part avoided, is that of steamers or ships in foggy weather, carrying on sail or steaming too fast without being certain of their exact position ; in such cases more than one good steamer has been lost, but it is very rarely heard of now ; although within these few years past, collisions have happened in thick weather leading to the loss with ships at sea sometimes of one or both of the ships. There are also icebergs and French fishermen on the Banks of Newfoundland in the spring time, but we seldom hear of any serious collision between them, there are so many precautions taken to avoid them.

The following story of a shipwreck on the dangerous banks which line the eastern coast of Ireland will no doubt be interesting, as the shipwreck was in my own experience. The ship I was then on board of was bound from Liverpool to Baltimore, with a heavy cargo of salt in bags. We sailed in 1854 in the month of November, a very bad month in the English or St. George's Channel, as thick weather and heavy gales of wind are frequent in this particular month. Our ship, the "Brunswick," was nearly new, and the captain a young man, though with a good deal of experience. The wind continued light but with thick fogs and a good deal of rain : as we proceeded down the channel the wind began to rise

from south-east, until it increased to a gale, when the top-sails were close-reefed, fore, main and mizen. These gales had been of frequent occurrence previous to this, and blew directly on to the banks already spoken of.

These Banks are called the Wicklow, Arklow, and Blackwater, stretching a few miles off shore from the Irish coast, but there is a good channel between the land and the Banks; in fine weather there is scarcely any perceptible sea running to mark them, so that in a gale of wind they are particularly dangerous, and many fine ships have been lost on them. As the winds had been frequent from south-east they caused a strong current to run right on to these dangerous ridges of sand. On the night in question we steered in towards the Irish coast, and keeping a good look-out we expected to see a certain light on the Banks. As we slowly stood in, all at once the cry was heard above the howling of the gale "A-light-right-a-head." Startled by the cry the second mate was at once forward but could not see the light, he, however, was told to call the captain who was seated in his chair in the cabin asleep, having strictly warned the second mate to call him when he saw the light. Still no motion was made to call the captain, the ship meanwhile standing in, straight on to the bank, assisted by the current without a doubt, and just as the light

glared close to the ship, the captain came on deck and gave the order, "All hands wear ship."

Meanwhile the helm was put hard up, while the watch below were getting on deck, but alas! too late to clear those terrible banks. She ran for a little off before the wind, and in a few moments more we felt a shock enough to carry many of us off our feet, as she went crashing and soon breaking her back on the banks. One sea came on board sweeping the captain and two men at the wheel nearly overboard; but now she forged a-head and was soon in the deep water inside. "Man the pumps," called the captain, "while some hands clear away the boats. Square the yards, we are all right now, my lads," were his cheering words. These orders were quickly obeyed, when again the cry came of "breakers on the starboard bow." Answering her helm she soon cleared the dreaded breakers, which in the darkness could be plainly seen rearing their crested heads far above our devoted ship's decks.

We all now inwardly thanked God that we had escaped those terrible breakers, which had they come on board would have swept us all into eternity in a very few moments time. The pumps were now manned as we cleared the breakers, and having steered in towards

the land, the anchor with sixty fathoms of chain was let go, while we pumped with all our energy, as the ship was now fast sinking : two of our four boats being meanwhile got afloat. The wind still kept up, but we had some hopes from the various life-boats stationed on this part of the coast.

Daylight at length came, on that terrible November morning, as we still kept at the pumps, barely able to keep our now fast sinking ship afloat, and we hoisted the ensign *union down*, as a signal of distress to the people on shore. Our captain, who stood it out well, giving his orders clearly and distinctly, now sent crews into each of the boats afloat, with orders to stand by, while the remaining seventeen men worked still harder at the pumps. These seven started for the shore, and one boat was dashed to pieces in the surf, one man being lost, the other we afterwards found was picked up with her crew by some fishermen and safely landed.

This cowardly conduct in deserting their shipmates was severely spoken of at the time. The remaining portion of us who were left, now worked with hearty good will, some pumping while the rest got out the other two boats, one of which was swamped alongside. The captain was now appealed to, that as the ship was

fast sinking, we had better avail ourselves of the remaining boat and make our escape. Seeing that no hope remained of saving the ship he reluctantly gave orders to each one of us to get into the boat, being the last to leave the vessel himself.

A blanket was now set for a sail, no one having saved any clothing, and cold, wet and fatigued, we steered along the rock-bound coast in search of a safe place to land. It was now pretty well on in the forenoon ; but still no signs of assistance from the shore, our ship soon afterwards having sunk. As we still steered along, we at length descried a life-boat pulling towards us, each man having a belt of cork round his waist, and as our small boat was overloaded with seventeen men in such a sea, some gladly leaped on board the life-boat, while the remainder of us followed as they steered for the shore.

We soon afterwards landed safely at a small town on the coast, where we were met by the priest and Protestant minister of the place, the inhabitants vying with each other in acts of kindness to the shipwrecked crew. Afterwards each man was forwarded to his native place by the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Society, whose benevolent operations are well known on the various coasts of Great Britain. Years

have elapsed since then ; but I have never forgotten that terrible night and morning, in the month of November, in a shipwreck on the coast of Ireland.

OVERLAND FROM INDIA.

IN May, 1867, after my five years service on the coast of India and up the Persian Gulf, I took passage in the steamer "Yamuna," from Bombay to Suez, thence across the desert and home to Liverpool. On a beautiful day in May we embarked mails and passengers, and were soon under way from the harbour of Bombay. There were but few Arabs or natives on board, but we had a number of Turks and Jews who were on their way to Aden at the entrance of the Red Sea.

Our captain and his officers, as well as the quarter-masters, were Europeans, but the crew Lascars or native sailors of India. Steaming at full speed we were soon at the outer lightship, where our pilot left us. The weather continued beautiful, clear and mild as we steamed rapidly to the westward, our course being west, southerly, all the way to Aden. The nights were so fine that very few of our deck or cabin passengers

thought of going below to sleep, but lay down under the double awnings on deck, well sheltered from the night dew which falls heavily in these latitudes.

We had quite a number of saloon or cabin passengers, some of whom had been in the Indian army and were now returning with their families to their native land, having left the service with well earned pensions. Among our passengers we had an operatic troupe, which had been sadly taken in by their manager in Bombay, and were now on their way back to Trieste. In these fine evenings we had some splendid pieces of music performed by this company, which sounded well when all was quiet. We had also among our passengers several men who had been employed by the railway companies in Bombay, and were now coming home on sick leave.

Day succeeded day as we steamed rapidly along on our course, without any event worth recording, and in five days from Bombay we sighted the land on the Arabian coast near Aden. The mountains and the whole outline of the coast looked exceedingly barren and sterile. Entering the harbour we were soon anchored and began to fill up our coal for the remainder of the passage to Suez. Several of our deck passengers left us here, and we were visited by quite a num-

ber of Arabs, who had all kinds of curiosities for sale. Among other things they had quite a number of magnificent ostrich feathers, which they sold at a very reasonable price.

There is nothing about Aden that is very attractive to the visitor, and the excessive heat nearly all the year round makes it far from being a desirable place to stay at for any length of time. Aden is, however, quite an important coal depot for steamers going up and coming down the Red Sea on their passage from or to India. A regiment of European troops is quartered here, forming a garrison for the protection of the place from the depredations of the Arabs; rather a desolate spot for them, one would imagine. But there are steamers to and from India almost constantly touching here for the purpose of coaling, which enlivens the place.

There are also a few good hotels for the accommodation of passengers who choose to land here for the time. Having completed our coaling and discharged a portion of our cargo, our anchor was soon at the bows by the help of a splendid capstan which was worked by steam. Steaming at full speed we left the port of Aden on our way up the Red Sea. It happened very much to the comfort of our passengers that the weather kept very fine, and cooler by far than we expected,

fer even with double awnings spread fore and aft, the heat during the passage up the Red Sea is generally excessive, and almost suffocating to the passengers who move round the deck gasping for one breath of cool air.

We passed on our way one of the same company's steamers which was disabled, and had to be towed to Aden, thence all the way to Bombay. The water of the Red Sea appeared to me to be much lighter in colour than that of the various oceans I have sailed on, and is of a very light blue. No land was to be seen except occasional high mountains on the Arabian side. We passed a shoal called the Cleopatra shoal, on which an English man-of-war was wrecked. It is nearly in the very centre of the sea, and in the direct way of steamers bound up and down. But there is now a splendid lighthouse on this desolate spot, and as we passed about dusk in the evening, we saw a tiny skiff pulled by one of the lighthouse keepers, who had been evidently fishing, and was then returning to his lonely abode in the lighthouse.

Soon afterwards we saw the brilliant light established here suddenly shoot forth its rays on the surrounding waste of water, and almost held our breath as we thought for a moment what would have been the

terrible result to our steamer with her living freight, of her going full speed on this dangerous reef. We were still enjoying fine weather, and as we proceeded the Red Sea became narrower, and we could easily make out the high land on both sides, mountain above mountain, but withal rugged and barren in the extreme.

Our obliging commander tells us that we should soon see on our right hand Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb, as well as the Wells of Moses. The water was so smooth and the weather so fine that we made rapid progress on our way to Suez. There is nothing very inviting in the appearance of the land now seen so plainly on both sides. At length all our passengers were earnestly looking to one certain point, and we could plainly see, far away in the distance, Sinai rearing its rugged and hoary head above the other mountains, so plainly visible to us. There was also Mount Horeb plainly distinguished from the others, and what a strange feeling came over us as we gazed with the most profound awe at the places where God himself gave the Commandments to his servant Moses. But as we gaze it is not with fear, *rather the reverse*, as we know that we now live under a different dispensation: the love of God instead of the terrors of the law being the incentive to obedience.

As we proceeded the strait became narrower, and the Wells of Moses were plainly to be seen a short distance from the beach, which is sandy and desert like. The spot, also, where the sea was divided for saving the Israelites and for the destruction of their enemies is pointed out, but there is nothing remarkable in its aspect. The strait, however, is not very wide at this particular place, which is known, like many others on this route, by the traditions of the Arabs who have, for all these centuries past, kept a record of these remarkable places in the history of the Old Testament. Still nothing is to be seen of any kind of cultivation; nothing but rocks, mountains, and a wide expanse of sandy deserts.

We now approached the anchorage at Suez, and dropping the anchor had made the passage from Bombay in eleven days. A small steamer came alongside, and with all our passengers, mails and baggage we were landed at Suez town, three miles from the "Yamuna," which could not approach nearer. The town of Suez has nothing very remarkable in its appearance, and looks decidedly mean, and far from being cleanly, with its narrow streets, and dingy-looking houses. But there are quite a number of good hotels, French, German and English. Prominent among these

is the Peninsular and Oriental Company's hotel, which is a splendid building, and where first and second-class passengers by that line can obtain every comfort and necessary attendance by the most civil and obliging waiters I have ever seen. Everything is so cleanly and so much like home that any one would imagine he was in a first class hotel in the heart of London. We had to remain here all night, as there was no train crossing the desert for Alexandria till the following morning. Great numbers of French labourers were to be seen there who were at work at the Suez canal, but the population of Suez is somewhat mixed, the French and German seeming to predominate. A few of the Egyptian soldiers were seen strolling about, but they had far from a soldier-like appearance.

On the following morning, our baggage having been taken care of by the Pasha's servants, we took our tickets out for Alexandria; and strange enough the ticket clerk could not speak a word of English; he had to get an interpreter to explain what we wanted in everything. We were soon in the train for Alexandria, and found that our engineers and drivers were all Arabs; nearly all of the English engineers and drivers had struck because his Highness the Viceroy or Pasha did not pay them for extra time. As some accidents

had already taken place by the mismanagement of these Arabs, it was not a very comfortable reflection for us to know that we were under their care. But we soon reached Grand Cairo, and as I wished to have a look round I stayed there for the night.

Cairo looks quite a stirring place, and from our English hotel we could plainly see the Pyramids about seven miles distant, and even at this distance, they have a strange mysterious look in their solitary grandeur. The whole country round Grand Cairo is flat and level, and there are many well cultivated fields to be seen here and there, besides whole ranges and groves of date trees.

Surrounded at the door of the hotel as soon as we made our appearance by a whole crowd of donkey boys, shouting and yelling in broken English, "My donkey, sir, good donkey ; he name Tom, sir ; that fellow donkey no good, sir." At last we got on donkeys and went in to see the sights in Grand Cairo.

There are some very fine buildings in Grand Cairo, the mosques being the most conspicuous ; but in the lower parts the houses are mostly built of mud and straw, the streets narrow and tortuous, and not in the best of order. The Bazaar was crowded with Arabs, Turks, Jews and Armenians, but we strolled at pleasure

round the city, no one molesting or daring to molest any stranger. After wandering round with our ragged donkey boy at our heels urging on the animals, at length we resume our way to the hotel. On the whole, the place is well worth seeing by travellers on their way to or from India. Paying off our attendants we hastened to get ready for the train.

Once more on the way to Alexandria. In the train there were several of the Pasha's English engineers, who explained to us as we went on the names of various places. The route across the desert is perfectly flat, but there is plenty of cultivation to be seen and vast fields of the cotton plant. We also crossed the River Nile a number of times on our way. At one particular station I noticed an Arab looking for *back-sheesh*, as it is called, or begging, dressed in a very curious coat of all sorts of colours, no doubt intended to represent the many-coloured coat of Joseph. All our passengers seemed interested in this Arab, and I am certain he got quite a sum in small change from them. We arrived in Alexandria about midnight, and were soon conveyed in a hack to the "Hotel Francaise," where every comfort was provided for us and at very reasonable rates.

Taking a stroll through Alexandria at night we found the streets well lighted in the European quarter, and some magnificent shops to be seen, as well as splendidly illuminated saloons, where the visitor can hear some good music from the French, operatic as well as comic ; in fact everything in Alexandria is decidedly *French*, with here and there a touch or sprinkling of German. The French were evidently in the ascendant here at this time, and John Bull seemed to be almost entirely ignored in Alexandria. There were, however, quite a number of English officers and engineers on board several of the splendid steam frigates or men-of-war of His Highness the Viceroy, and it is well that there are for the safety of His Highness's splendid ships of war, for the Egyptians are but poor navigators, and I should scarcely care to trust a vessel under their charge far out to sea, in case they would never find their way back. There is a well known story current in Alexandria of a fine steam frigate going on a cruise to Malta, which can easily be reached in from three to five days. She was officered by Egyptians, and after cruising about for a whole fortnight they managed to get back to Alexandria with the startling intelligence that Malta was *Mackfish*, that is to say that it had

disappeared, gone to the bottom or somewhere else, but it could not be found. In short they had lost their way, and it took some trouble for them to get baek to Alexandria.

Hiring a donkey boy, I took a tour round the eity, visiting Cleopatra's needle, an obelisk, with a great many charaeters in Arabie on its different sides. It looks as fresh as if it had been finished yesterday. There is also Pompey's pillar a little out of the eity, standing in a very prominent position on the top of a hill. My donkey boy invited me to visit the Catacombs, elose to Pompey's pillar, where there are thousands of Egyptian mummies in these subterranean abodes of the dead; but as we had no lantern I thought it most prudent not to avail myself of his invitation, as these donkey boys have a fashion of losing their visitors in the Catacombs, and keeping them here for a considerable time until they get *Backsheesh* to lead them out. Taking a eircuit I saw quite a number of forts surrounding and commanding the entrance to the harbour, and I also saw his Highness, the Pasha, pulled from one side of the harbour to the other, in a beautiful barge, the rowers being clad in splendid scarlet uniforms.

Meanwhile the forts on both sides thundered forth salutes of heavy guns in his honour. Alexandria appears to be strongly fortified against the entrance of men-of-war into the harbour; but I imagine that some of our heavy iron-elads would find but little difficulty in blowing up the whole affair. Vast quantities of cotton and grain are shipped from Alexandria to many of the principal ports in Europe, and there are always a large number of ships and steamers in this harbour.

After a stay of a week, seeing the sights round the city and waiting for the next steamer direct for Liverpool, we embarked in the fine new steamer "Memphis," then on her first voyage, and said to be very fast. Quite a number of our friends who had left Bombay with us were coming on in the same steamer. Having filled up our cargo of cotton and grain, we once more resumed our passage homewards. The weather was fine and the water smooth, as we bade farewell to Alexandria, leaving our Egyptian pilot a few miles outside of the harbour.

The entrance to Alexandria is somewhat dangerous and narrow in certain parts of the channel, and a good pilot is indispensable for either sailing ships or steamers. The weather kept remarkably fine as we steamed rapidly down the Mediterranean for Malta, our next

port of call. We had with us several passengers for Malta, but one who had lived for twelve years in Jerusalem and was going baek to some place in Germany with his wife, entirely absorbed my attention. He had been a teacher in Jerusalem, and as he spoke good English he could tell me all about the city, its past and its present. The condition of the Jews in Jerusalem, who were going baek there in considerable numbers, is very miserable aecording to his aecount. As we proceeded we had fine clear weather with smooth water, and we passed on our way several British iron-elad men-of-war, eruising up and down the Mediterranean, their huge black hulls looming high above the surfaee of the water, looking to me, as a sailor, somewhat forbidding, and not at all like the prim, neat *wooden walls of Old England* I had seen in former days, both frigates and sloops of war.

But times are much ehanged during the last twenty years, both in the army and navy, and those seeure iron-elads are indespensible in the defence of our coasts as well as in keeping pace with other maritime powers. Entering the harbour of Malta in three days from Alexandria, we were struck with its beautiful appearance, land looked on all sides as we went the farther in. Forts were to be seen on almost all sides, which

seemed to be very strong, and any one would imagine them almost impregnable. There were also lying at anchor here several heavy iron-clads, among them the "Prince Consort," "Royal Oak," and others.

Taking a boat, for which the small sum of one penny was charged, we were soon ashore in Malta, the streets leading up very steep towards the city proper, and crowded with priests and nuns as they hasten to or from the morning service. There are also very fine buildings in Malta, among others the old Church of St John's, where the old knights of Malta are buried, and as we passed we were invited to visit the church by a friend who very kindly acted as our guide. Entering, the Catholic service was being performed by two or three priests, while there were quite a number of worshippers, principally women, devoutly kneeling in the body of the church. There are many splendid paintings hung round, among others a particularly fine one of the Virgin and Child.

Following our guide we descended the steps leading to the vault beneath the church, and were ushered into the vault containing the bodies of the Grand Commanders and Grand Masters of the Knights of Malta. The chamber or vault is but small, and on each sarcophagus or stone coffin there is a full length stone likeness

of the deceased knight, dressed in the robes of the order. An inscription in Latin is on the wall over each body, telling the date of its decease and the length of time each had served as head of the order.

But there was not much time to visit here, as our steamer soon finished coaling and we had to hasten on board. Bidding adieu we were soon on board, and our steamer on her way to Gibraltar, our next port of call. As we left Malta we saw the small bay where St Paul is said to have landed. There is also a statue of the great apostle in this quiet little nook or bay, to be plainly seen from the deck of the steamer.

We were still favoured with the finest of weather, and our fast steamer made good time for Gibraltar, and in three days we arrived safely in the bay, where we once more had to coal. As it was night we waited patiently for daylight, as no one is allowed to land here after night. Daylight came, and what a sight met our gaze! The huge rock itself, high above the level of the sea, and standing perfectly isolated from the neighbouring coast of Spain, except by a narrow neck of land called the neutral ground.

Surrounding the base of the rock and close to the sea, there is nothing to be seen but fort within fort, each one bristling with guns of the heaviest calibre,

while on the old rock itself can be seen the marks of shot over hundreds of years old from the time the place belonged to the Moors until its capture by the British from Spain. Landing at the water gate, we pass draw-bridges, chains, &c., all under the charge of sergeants, with the guards, and were soon within the city. As we walked up the principal street, which is somewhat steep like those of Malta, we saw some splendid shops, as well as public buildings, but as our time was limited we had to hasten on board.

There were several men-of-war in the bay, and we noticed quite a number of their crews ashore on leave. Among the iron-clads at anchor here we noticed the splendid wooden frigate "Galatea," commanded by his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, who was then about to proceed to the Brazils, thence to Australia, *via* the Cape. The Prince had gained golden opinions among the good people of Gibraltar as well as among the crew of his own ship, by his affability and manly bearing as an officer. As we proceeded to our steamer, his frigate looked well on the water, with royal yards across, and everything in first rate order ready for a start. Some of the forts were at target practice with shell, and it was curious to watch with what precision the shell struck or burst

with its peculiar sharp sound as it exploded in close proximity to the target.

Our steamer was once more under way for Liverpool, and we left Gibraltar with a feeling of regret at having to leave it so soon, only being about four hours there altogether. Passing rapidly through the straits, for our steamer made nothing of the strong current constantly setting in from the Atlantic, we were soon steering to the northward for the channel. The weather kept fine, but much colder than in the Mediterranean, and to those who had been a considerable time in India the cold was sensibly felt, extra coats and other clothing having been found necessary.

We were soon in St George's Channel, our steamer scarcely ever making less than eleven miles an hour, which was excellent work. No land was seen till well up towards Holyhead, so exact had our reckoning been kept. Now we took on board our pilot for Liverpool, who took charge, and in about eleven and a half days from Alexandria we anchored in the Mersey off Liverpool. Our whole passage from Bombay had been made in twenty-two days' steaming, and with eight days detention at Alexandria and other ports, we reached home in thirty days. The weather had

been fine all the way, and all our passengers were pleased at having so pleasant a time by the overland route from India.

A TRIP TO LAKE SUPERIOR.

THERE is a vast difference between salt water voyages and sailing on the lakes of North America, and it was not without some misgivings that I made up my mind to leave the salt water to try my fortune on these lakes. But the idea of purchasing a farm in one of the many fine tracts of farming land which border on these inland seas, overcame any feeling of reluctance which I had to leaving what may be called my native element, and having made up my mind I was soon on my way to these western lakes.

Having a sister residing on the borders of Lake St Clair, and whose repeated invitations that I should visit her had been the means of forming the determination to which I had come, I left the salt water upwards of two years ago, intending to spend the winter with my sister and the summer on the lakes, with the view of ultimately settling there as already mentioned.

While fully sensible that lake sailing was different from navigating the ocean, I had scarcely realized fully the fact that my long experience and nautical education would be of little value in this new sphere, a local acquaintance with the different lakes, bays, harbours, &c., being absolutely necessary, while a knowledge of navigation proper is of little importance. Sea captains are therefore for a time at a discount on the lakes, and are obliged to accept inferior positions, yet there are quite a number of salt-water men there who by quiet perseverance and steadiness have come in time to get command of vessels.

My own first trip on the lakes was in the steamer "Meteor," under Captain Wilson, who is well known as one of the most energetic as well as popular commanders on the route from Detroit to all the ports of any consequence on Lake Superior. We started from Detroit on the 24th May, 1868, up the river, and the weather as well as the scenery was beautiful as we went on, both on the Canadian and American side of the river. Passing through Lake St Clair we had an opportunity of seeing the magnitude of the work of cutting and dredging the channel for the passage of steamers and vessels bound up or down to Chicago or Lake Superior; there are several lighthouses as well as buoys

placed there on the shallow parts of the lake, and in the season of navigation they are of the greatest importance and service in the immense traffic carried on between the upper and lower lakes.

This channel has been cut, and all the expense undertaken by the government of the United States; but it has been found that it is cut through Canadian waters, and as a consequence is claimed as the property of the Canadian government. This seems but a small matter, as the advantages are mutual to both countries, and doubtless a matter which can be amicably settled by deep thinking and sensible statesmen on both sides of the lines. The little jealousies existing between the two countries will in time surely be healed up, and Canada and the United States, if *not one* nation, will at all events live peaceably, having one common bond of blood and religion to keep them united and friendly. As we proceeded, the cultivation and aspect of the country on both sides of the River St Clair were beautiful, and on the morning after we left Detroit, we touched at Sarnia, to receive on board some passengers bound for Lake Superior. Sarnia is a place of much importance, and though not very large it is one of the connecting points between Canada and the United States by rail.

We soon were again under way, and *en route* for Lake Superior. There is a good lighthouse on the Canadian shore, which is of great benefit, as we either enter or come back from the upper lakes.

The Americans, however, are by no means behind the Canadians in furnishing lighthouses or lights up to the very last moment when there is a chance of navigation, and though it may be against our Canadian friends I must say that I found on my passage down from the Welland canal, very recently, that there were no lights on Lake Ontario on the Canada shore, but the American shore was lighted up till the 19th December, the date of our departure from Port Dalhousie. With fine weather we now steamed from Sarnia up Lake Huron, towards Detour river, and for the Sault Ste. Marie canal. In a very short run the "Meteor" entered this river, which runs rapidly, and is rather dangerous to those not acquainted with its rocks and shoals. Our captain, however, was a thorough pilot, and was never much at a loss to find his way, either on the lake or connecting rivers. As we proceeded, our wood began to give out, and we had to stop a few hours at one of the wooding places on the river side.

There is but little cultivation on either side of the Detour, nothing but a waste of bush, with here and

there a clearance, where there are fishermens' houses or groceries for supplying passing steamers and sailing vessels bound to Marquette or any of the ports on Lake Superior. Arrived at the Sault Ste Marie canal, we again discharged some more cargo and embarked a few passengers for Superior City and other ports. This canal has been so often described that it is scarcely necessary to enlarge upon its extreme usefulness here as a connection between Lake Superior and the lower lakes. The canal itself is a mile long, with only three locks, and it is kept in the best of order by the Americans, who seem to know its value, for the immense traffic carried on from and to Lake Superior. Sault Ste Marie is a small town, but has a considerable number of residents, besides there is a garrison here, with quite a number of United States troops.

Our steamer was locked through (as it is called) in about an hour, and on her way up Lake Superior to the various ports on its shores. She made excellent progress, as she is one of the fastest on the route. We touched at the following places: Ontonagon, Haneoek, Duluth, Superior City, and other smaller places, but all of great importance in the shipment of copper ore, which abounds in these regions, and not far from the borders of the lake and its numerous small rivers and

tributaries. The whole country on the route is perfectly wild, and scarcely any cultivation is to be seen, save here and there a spot where fishermen cultivate potatoes, which grow here and are of good quality; nothing else being seen as we proceeded but bush and rocks for hundreds of miles round its shores. But its resources in the copper and iron regions are unbounded, and I am surely not exaggerating in stating that the region round here could supply half the world at present with the minerals above mentioned. We at length reached Marquette, one of the most thriving of all the ports on Lake Superior. Thousands of tons of iron ore are shipped here by a large fleet of sail-vessels and steamers during the season of navigation for Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, besides other ports on the lower lakes, and no one would imagine, except by seeing for themselves, the immense traffic carried on here in iron ore, as well as in pigs of iron of various qualities.

The ore is run in from the mines by rail-road, nearly right over the vessels' mast-heads, and by shoots well managed run right into the vessels' holds. Thus a large vessel able to carry one thousand tons of ore can be loaded in six or seven hours. The work of devising

and constructing a work of such magnitude deserves the highest praise, and is something like the go-ahead-ativeness of the Americans. Marquette is therefore a place of the greatest value and importance, and is rapidly growing larger by the enterprise of the various mining companies shipping ore from this port. Having taken a quantity of ore on our deck, which was wheeled on board, as we could not take it on board otherwise without injury to our long range of cabins, we now proceeded on our return to the various ports already named.

On our return we had a number of fishermen to land, with boats, &c., at several points on our way. There are immense quantities of various kinds of fish caught here, which gives very remunerative employment to quite a large number of men, many of whom come all the way even from Boston to engage in this occupation during the season of navigation. The weather continued fine as we steamed rapidly along, but at some of the ports of call the sun at times came out with excessive heat, especially when there was no wind. The sea rises sometimes in a gale of wind, I am told, not unlike the Atlantic Ocean, and it is dangerous in the extreme to vessels or steamers late in the fall. Having called at Ontonagon to land and

take in passengers and freight, we next proceeded to Copper Harbour, to take on deck small and large masses of copper, for Detroit and Cleveland.

These masses were of various weights and shapes, as they came from the rich copper mines, by tram-road or rail, some pieces weighing from five or six hundred-weight to five or six tons, and several were over that in weight. We had one immense mass which I was told by some of the miners weighed eleven tons two-hundred weight, and was then the largest ever sent to Detroit. The process of getting these masses on the steamer's deck was by means of rollers placed under them, and guided by handspikes, with plenty of good tackles; captain, mate and all our strong crew assisting in their shipment, by no means an easy task. The steamer lay, however, close to the dock, and the whole were taken in, to the amount of over one hundred tons, in a remarkably short space of time.

There were quite a large number of saloon and a few steerage passengers, and we made a very short run to the canal, on our return to Detroit. Passing through the canal we proceeded at a great rate of speed, with the rapid current which runs down the river, and on to Lake Huron. Having reached Detroit we had made the whole trip in eleven and a

half days, having called at all the ports on Lake Superior with full cargoes each way, and a large number of passengers. The trip from Cleveland or Detroit to Lake Superior is replete with interest to either the merchant or tourist, with its varied scenery and rich resources, whilst its health-giving and pure air in the summer season, render it a pleasant trip for invalids to undertake.

CANAL NAVIGATION IN CANADA.

LATE in the fall of last year, 1870, I took passage in a vessel from Toledo to Montreal, and had an opportunity of seeing the difficulties experienced in getting steamers and sailing vessels through the canals on the route, both in the Welland and lower canals. If the commission now appointed does their duty by enquiring into the whole system, and suggesting the application of the required improvements, the practical value of the canals to the Dominion as well as to the United States, will be largely increased indeed.

I have no hesitation in saying that the Welland canal is a disgrace to any government in more ways than one. That this assertion is true, any one who takes the trouble can see for himself, during the ensuing season of navigation.

Arrived at Port Colborne our vessel must be *got ready* for the locks, that is to say although but a

small schooner drawing ten feet she is first measured to see if not drawing over that in case of grounding. This is all right and proper, but to any one who knows how much larger vessels are *now built* to what they were thirty or forty years ago, it will appear absurd that the canal is not made deeper to admit of ships of sixteen or even twenty feet draught, passing through the whole of its twenty-seven locks without grounding.

We next had to hoist our small bow-sprit and jib-boom away up pointing to the clouds, in order not to be caught on the lower gates of the locks, which ought to be from forty to fifty feet longer for vessels built in these days of all kinds of improvements and inventions. This would admit of much larger vessels and steamers passing from the upper to the lower lakes. Then, again, the extra labour required to do all this, viz., to point up jib-booms and bowsprits, get boats in and leave nothing but the bare hull of the vessel close to the gates; all gives extra labour, involving both time and expense.

We were now said to be ready for "locking" through. Two teams of horses being attached by a long tow-line, two of the men remained on shore to put ropes on spiles when needed in the various bends of the canal in order to check the vessel from grounding, and assist

the helm when it did not steer the vessel. With yells to the drivers from the mate, and curses to our two men on shore for not being quick enough with the lines, &c., we now started on our weary, toilsome journey of twenty-nine miles, and as it had been raining, the road or tow path was very muddy the first part of the way, and somewhat bad walking, but nothing to what was to come: a long level was now come to after the first lock was passed, which allowed our two men on the tow path to come on board for a time, the horses doing most of the work until we reached Allanstown.

Here there was another lock, and we soon managed to get through with some more yelling, shouting and cursing. Proceeding slowly along in tow of our trusty horses we next reached the head lock above Thorold, and now began our labours in earnest: there was nothing but mud, up to the knees, in some places, for the poor fellows on shore, who wearily plodded along, ready to pass ropes to check the vessel; the travelling both for men and horses being fatiguing in the extreme. Our men on board, too, were almost constantly at work, the mate at some parts going half crazy as he shouted, cursed and yelled, when the vessel got hard and fast in the mud, partly by his

own stupidity, and partly by the half sleepy, fatigued men on shore, who may have not been quick enough to get a line on a spile through these muddy, disgraceful roads.

These roads, as they remain at present, are a standing disgrace to the Canadian Government, for no other civilized government would leave the tow path and so called heel path to remain in such a state, for lack of being repaired, but would use a portion of the large revenue derived from this particular canal on repairs. As we now had lock after lock to pass through, the labour both to those on board as well as those on shore was fatiguing and harrassing in the extreme, as our men had now been constantly on the move for thirty successive hours, and had scarcely time for their meals as they came to some lock where a few minutes respite was given them for that purpose. The vessel had still to go on, the crew having been without sleep for nearly forty hours day and night. However, at length we reached the last lock at Port Dalhousie, but still no respite, as the whole of our vessel had now to be got ready for Lake Ontario, our ropes to be tightened and set up so that we could proceed safely on the trip to Montreal.

Sail was at length made by our wearied, half-sleepy and wholly fatigued crew, and with a fresh breeze we steered for our next port of call, "Kingston," there to lighten our small schooner to nine feet draught so that she could pass through the paltry lower canals leading past the rapids of the St Lawrence and on to Montreal. It blew hard in our favour, and in seventeen hours from Port Dalhousie we were anchored at Kingston, but had to wait our turn in order to get Henderson's floating elevator to lighten the vessel to the required draught, as there were several vessels requiring to be lightened before proceeding downward.

Here, again, there is a great deal of needless expense and time lost by being detained in order to lighten, because these lower canals might be dredged, their locks lengthened and many other improvements made to meet the requirements of the present age and admit of large vessels coming up from the sea to the lakes, thus having direct communication to and from Chicago, the capital of the West, and Liverpool. At length discharging to the required nine feet, we were taken in tow, along with several other barges and another schooner, by a powerful tug, and taken on our way towards the head of the Cornwall canal; our jib-boom,

&c., having again to be raised for passing through the locks.

Arrived at the head of the canal our tug brought the schooners alongside an old, rotten, broken down wharf, where we managed to make fast for the time ; we then prepared to drop into the canal, and as it was blowing fresh, we had no difficulty in making our way downwards. The tow path on this canal is far superior to that of the other canals, and especially to the Welland. As we reached the different locks, too, the stone buildings and greater quantity of stone used in the construction of the locks contrasted favourably with the old tumble-down wooden shanties and smaller quantities of stone used in the whole length of the Welland Canal.

This canal could be easily deepened, there appear to be so many natural advantages in its favour, and it is so much straighter than the others. Our schooner was now towed across a small lake, well buoyed, and with plenty of good lighthouses at every needed part of its whole extent. I need not enlarge on our canal navigation towards Montreal, only that the Lachine canal appeared to me the worst of the whole, especially as we approached Montreal, the waste water at many of the large works rushing in, and in spite of

all our mate's shouting and cursing, and the energies of our unlucky men on the tow-path, hard and fast on the ground our unfortunate schooner went no less than a dozen times, if not more, before we reached Montreal.

The tow-path here is very bad indeed in wet weather, and the many rushes of waste water render it a most difficult matter for sailing vessels, as well as vessels with steam power, to get along. That there is a very great deal wanted to be done in improving the whole of the canals in Canada, no one can gainsay, and also in having an entirely new system of management. I have passed through Egypt on my way from India, and its many improvements have struck me that there was a master mind ruling in that benighted land. What a pity His Highness the Pasha or Viceroy of Egypt, has not the power delegated to him to come over and revise the whole canal system of Canada. I am positive that he would do so better than those now at the head of the canal department here. With these remarks I close this article on canal navigation in the Dominion of Canada.

Nota Bene. There is a prevalent system in India, and other Eastern countries, of giving *Bachsheesh* to well paid native officials for doing their duty. I hope many of the captains who read these anecdotes and have to pass through the canals, have not to do the same thing in order to get their vessels along.

THE MARINER'S COMPASS.

THIS instrument in the navigation of ships is of the greatest service to the mariner, and no ship or steamer can go to sea without two or three compasses at the least to guide them on the trackless waste of water, the course to steer being easily understood. It has been said that the Chinese understood the use of the compass some hundreds of years before its introduction in the ships of the earlier navigators and discoverers, British, Spanish or Portuguese.

The needle or magnet is said to point always to the north, and as a matter of course the other points, as east, west, &c., are easily found by the needle pointing north and south. In certain parts of the world, however, the needle does not point to the north, but is drawn considerably to the right or left of true north. This is called the variation of the compass, and must be known accurately by the navigator in order to correct and steer the right course. For instance, in cross-

ing the Atlantic Ocean, the variation of the compass amounts in sailing vessels to $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ points westerly, and the course steered must be corrected accordingly. Say that you wish to make a due east course, you must steer $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{3}{4}$ points south of that or to the right hand in order to make a direct course.

Off the Cape of Good Hope in the South Atlantic Ocean, strange enough, the variation of the compass in ships bound to India or Australia is $2\frac{3}{4}$ points easterly, and in order to make a due east course, it is necessary to steer $2\frac{3}{4}$ to the north or left hand of her course, while again towards the equator or centre of the globe there is hardly any perceptible variation of the compass at all. The way of finding out how much the compass varies in different parts of the world, is by observations of the sun taken with the compass, and the difference between the true and magnetic or compass bearing is the variation which must be applied as a correction to the course steered.

We have, however, in iron ships or steamers what is called the deviation of the compass to attend to, besides the variation. This is the local attraction caused by the iron, and must be carefully understood before steamers or iron ships attempt to go to sea. As in steamers of the Allan or Cunard line, each

steamer before proceeding on her first voyage must be carefully swung, and magnets fixed to the deck, besides small chains placed on each side of the compasses in boxes, in order to counteract the attraction of the iron. Thus the compasses are so nicely balanced with the magnets and iron, that it is rare, indeed, now-a-days that they get out of order on a trans-Atlantic passage. The consequences to either steamer or sailing ship whose compasses are astray would be terrible to contemplate, even if it were but one half point, on dark winter nights approaching the land. These difficulties are now happily obviated by the discoveries of modern science, and their application in correcting the compass at sea.

On a voyage to the East Indies off the Cape of Good Hope, I commanded an iron ship some years ago when my compasses took a strange turn in steering to the eastward. I discovered for two days running that the compass by which the man was steering had neither variation nor deviation, but shewed due east, and made the course good without any correction, while the standard compass, about thirty feet farther forward, differed by nearly four points, showing south-east while the steering compass shewed east.

To the navigator these few remarks on the compass need not be too severely criticised, while they may be of some interest to the landsman who has not seen any of these invaluable instruments.

THE END.

A GLOSSARY

OF

NAUTICAL TERMS.

TO WEIGH ANCHOR—is to lift it off the ground and bring it up to the vessel's bows.

WEAR SHIP—is to turn the ship round and go the opposite way to avoid the land in a gale of wind, or at sea to keep as near her course as possible in a heavy gale.

TO LOOSE TOP-SAILS, TOP-GALLANT SAILS and ROYALS, is to open out the sails ready to set, when about to sail.

TOPSAILS are the second sails from the vessel's deck.

TOP-GALLANT-SAILS are the third sails from the vessel's deck.

ROYALS are the fourth sails above the ship's deck; **Sky-sails** are still higher than Royals, but they are very seldom used in the present day.

STUDDING SAILS or **Stun-sails** are used in fair winds, and are extended from the vessel's yards by means of what are called booms, or spars of long rounded wood.

YARDS are the long spars to which the sails are tied, and those nearest the deck on the respective mast are called the *Fore Yard*, *Main Yard*, and *Mizen* or *Cross Jack Yard*, next, the *Fore Top Sail Yard*, *Main Top Sail Yard*, and *Mizen Top Sail Yard*; higher, the *Fore Top*, *Gallant Yard*, *Main Top Gallant Yard*, and *Mizen Top Gallant Yard*; and higher still *Fore Royal Yard*; *Main Royal Yard* and *Mizen Royal Yard*.

THE MASTS are named the same way, viz., *Fore Mast*, *Main Mast*, and *Mizen Mast*, *Fore Top Mast*, *Main Top Mast*, and *Mizen Top Mast*; *Fore Top*, *Gallant*, *Royal*, &c.

A SHIP UNDER WAY is a ship in motion with sail set, or steamer with engines working and going on her voyage.

THE BOWSPRIT is a heavy spar which projects from the Bow of the vessel, and is so secured that it helps to keep the *Fore Mast* in its place; the *jibboom* is another spar still further out, and is connected with the *Flying jibboom*, the farthest out of the whole. Sails are attached to these booms by means of stays; these stays reach from the *Fore Mast* heads to the boom ends, being strong ropes of either hemp, or now-a-days mostly wire.

TO TACK SHIP is to bring the ship round and go the opposite way when sail can be carried, very much the same as wearing ship in a gale of wind, with this difference, that more ground is lost in wearing than in tacking, when the wind is adverse.

SQUARE SAILS are suspended and set from the yards of the ship; fore and aft sails, as *jibs*, *flying jibs*, &c., are set from the ropes or stays already spoken of.

THE SPANKER is a fore and aft sail which is at the after end of the ship, and is extended by a *Boom* and *gaff* from the *Mizen Mast*.

THE SERANG is like the *Boatswain* of a ship and is the executive officer of the ship under the chief or 2nd mate of a ship when manned by native *Lascars* of India. It is pronounced *See-rang'*.

A TINDAL is one of the Serang's assistants, there being generally three or four Tindals in large ships.

"Kŕ"—pronounced "Ky," *Ko Tope Mariya*. *Tope* is a gun—*Mariya* is the future of the Bengalee word *Mar* or "*Maro*," to strike, as why will you fire the gun? or make the gun strike.

To LUFF is to bring the vessel's head closer up to the wind.

HARD-A-PORT THE HELM—is to alter her course, so that the ship will go quickly and considerably to the right.

HARD-A-STARBOARD is to let the ship go quickly, and a good distance to the left.

To STEADY THE HELM is to let the ship go on the same course. To reef a Topsail is to make it smaller as the wind increases.

To FURL A SAIL is to tie certain small ropes or cords round it to prevent its blowing away until better weather comes.

THE HELM has the whole control of the ship, and although but a small piece of wood or iron in comparison to the ship, yet it controls her actions in sailing or steaming.

OUR WATCHES at sea are four hours on deck for the mates, and four hours below; each watch with its men being relieved alternately. There are, however, what are called dog-watches, viz., from four to six in the evening, and from six to eight, in order to change the watches, so that the mate and his watch shall not have eight hours on deck every night, but take turns with the second mate.

ON A LEE-SHORE is when the wind blows so hard towards the land that the ship can hardly carry sail in order to clear the land. Then every effort is made to carry sail, as it is the most dangerous position a ship can be in, excepting that of being in a hurricane at sea.

NOTE.—In large ships like the "Fiery Cross" in the frontispiece, there are four top-sail yards, viz.: the upper and lower fore top-

sail yard, upper and lower main top-sail yard, and upper and lower mizen top-sail yard, thus dividing each top-sail in two, as it were, and making them easier to handle in gales of wind, for by lowering the upper top-sails down, and furling them, we have the ship at once under close-reefed top-sails and they are always or ought to be of the very best canvas, especially near the land in a heavy gale of wind; the upper top-sails can of course be reefed as the gale increases, before being furled.

D. C.

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